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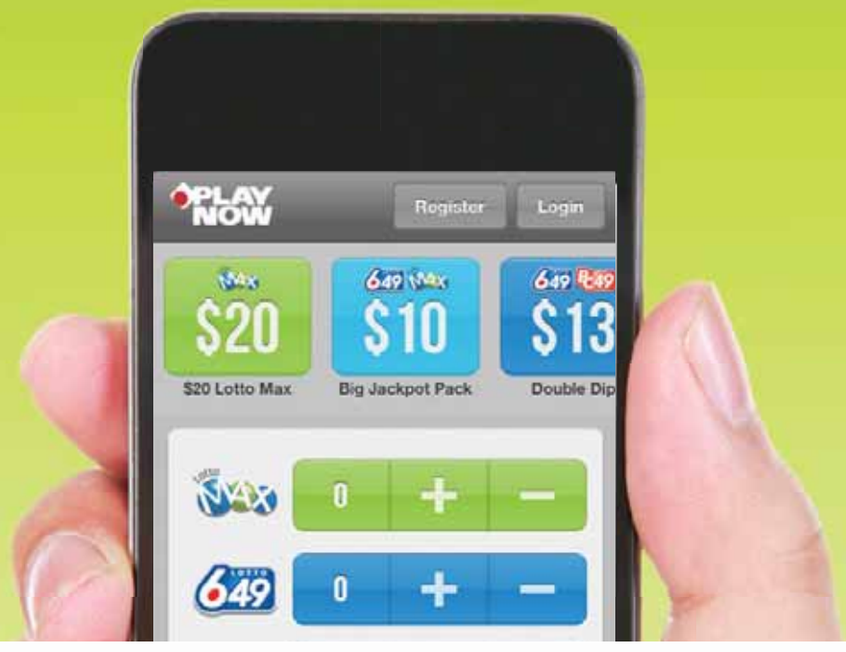

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Selma gets snubbed; Birdman, Grand Budapest grab 9 nods each

FOR A LIST OF THE FILMS, FILMMAKERS AND ACTORS THAT WILL CONTEND FOR ACADEMY AWARDS IN FEBRUARY, SEE PAGES 14 & 15.

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TOO HOT TO HANDLE?

Vancouver model Omar Borkan Al Gala reveals the truth behind what really happened in April 2013 when he was kicked out of Saudi Arabia, reportedly for being too handsome. Story, page 4. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Target exit opens new doors: Analyst

Business. International companies may fill the space vacated by the U.S. retail giant

Nine Target locations in the Lower Mainland will close with the U.S. retailer's decision to pull out of Canada, but a local retail analyst predicts it won't be long before another department store chain sets up shop in this region.

David Ian Gray, founder of DIG360, said many international retail chains, including Japanese fashion giant Uniqlo, are rumoured to be in talks to open stores in Canada and could take advantage of the soon-to-be empty Vancouver retail space.

"Most of the Target impact is going to be elsewhere in Canada — not necessarily the core urban area of Vancouver," Gray told Metro. "There's such a pent-up demand for urban space in Vancouver for retail that they should be fine."

Target's announcement Thursday comes less than two years after the U.S. retailer launched operations in Canada, opening 133 stores across the country.

Target CEO Brian Cornell said the company decided to suspend Canadian operations because it was unable to find a realistic scenario to reach profitability until at least 2021.

For other retailers looking to replace Target, however, Gray said it's important that they learn from their predecessor's mistakes.

Gray said he believes the cheap-chic retailer could have succeeded in Canada if it hadn't attempted to open so many stores within a short time period while also building its distribution network.

"This will go down as a true case study in retail mismanagement," he said. "They could have succeeded in Canada in my mind, so it really was a botch-up." THANDI FLETCHER/METRO

MORE COVERAGE, PAGES 8 & 12

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NEWS

Alternative proposal

City revenues should fund transit plan: CTF

The Canadian Taxpayers Federation says growing municipal revenues should be used to pay for the region's transit plan instead of a new tax.

The federation has been leading the "No" campaign against a proposed 0.5 per cent Metro Vancouver Congestion Improvement Tax, which will be put to voters in a mail-in plebiscite starting March 16, and released its alternative plan on Thursday. That plan proposes using 0.5 per cent of municipal revenues instead of a new tax to pay for transit improvements.

A "Yes" coalition group, made up of several boards of trades, unions and the David Suzuki Foundation, dismissed the CTF proposal, saying it would result in a cut of municipal services by digging into city coffers.

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Grace Islet

Province, nature conservancy team up to buy burial site

The B.C. government and the Nature Conservancy of Canada are teaming up to buy a First Nation burial site where a landowner had been building a house.

Grace Islet, a privately owned property off Saltspring Island, has cultural and spiritual significance for local First Nations.

Construction stopped last month, and the government says a framework agreement to buy the property has been reached with the owner. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Absalon Figueroa, right, and husband Eric Stephenson stand outside their residence, where they received three eviction notices in 14 days. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Tenants handed win over landlord in 'greed evictions'

Plan A Real Estate.
Arbitrator rules landlord was 'not in compliance' when eviction notices were issued

MATT KIELTYKA
matt.kieltyka@metronews.ca

The Residential Tenancy Branch has ruled overwhelmingly in favour of tenants in a West End apartment building who claimed their landlord was making their lives a nightmare.

In a decision made Jan. 9, an arbitrator ruled Plan A Real Estate's Anoop Majithia was "not in compliance" when he raised laundry costs to $13.50 per load (from $4.75), restricted bike storage space, refused to accept post-dated cheques for rent, failed to provide adequate heat and attempted to evict residents for not carpeting their apartments. All the incidents took place after Plan A took possession of 1168 Pendrell St., known as Hofmann Manor, last August.

In all, 16 tenants were handed eviction notices within a month of new ownership, and tenants were threatened with increased rent.

Plan A was also found to be illegally renting units in the building out for less than 30 days through the popular online peer-to-peer accommodation website Airbnb — leading West End MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert to dub the situation "greed evictions."

The arbitrator has now ordered laundry costs be reverted back to July 2014 levels and encouraged tenants to apply for compensation for extra costs incurred because of the landlord's actions.

The tenants of the building had already won multiple Residential Tenancy Branch decisions last year, successfully fighting off eviction notices in five cases.

Those cases included a couple that received three separate eviction notices in 14 days, in which an arbitrator ruled "repeated notices and threatened rent increases communicated the landlord's ulterior motive, which was to have the tenants move out of the rental unit by whatever means possible."

Arbitrators also rescinded eviction notices faced by a woman accused of living with an unauthorized person in her unit (her spouse) and tenants wrongly accused of an illegal sublet and for living with an illegal roommate.

In December, Majithia told Metro Plan A has since taken a "softer" approach toward tenants and said no more eviction notices have been issued.

He denied ever intentionally turning off tenants' heat.

While the branch ruled in favour of tenants on most outstanding issues, the arbitrator denied an application for administrative penalties against Plan A for harassment.

"There is no evidence that the landlord has acted contrary to or out of compliance with an order or decision of the RTB," the arbitrator ruled.

If granted, it would have been only the second time administrative penalties would have been given against a landlord in British Columbia.

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Vancouver model dishes on reports of deportation from Saudi Arabia

Too handsome? Local model Omar Borkan Al Gala discusses his 2013 trip to Saudi Arabia, reports saying he was deported for his looks

THANDI FLETCHER
thandi.fletcher@metronews.ca

He's devilishly handsome, but could his good looks be criminal?

For two years, Omar Borkan Al Gala, who now lives in Vancouver, has kept quiet on whether there was any truth to reports that he was deported from Saudi Arabia for being too handsome — until now.

Al Gala sat down with Metro for an exclusive interview Thursday, revealing what he says really happened that day that led to him getting kicked out of the kingdom.

"I kept it as a secret," he said with a mischievous glint in his eye. "But it's not a really bad incident, to be honest. It benefited me more than it did me bad."

Al Gala said he was traveling in Saudi Arabia with a group of friends in April 2013 when they decided to attend a cultural festival in Riyadh.

"We were just looking for something to do," he said.

Having worked as a model since he was 18, Al Gala said some girls at the festival recognized him and asked for his autograph and a photo.

But when the crowd of female admirers grew, he said authorities intervened.

"The scene was getting bigger, so the religion police didn't like it," Al Gala said. "They came and they asked me politely to leave the festival … because it's not really allowed to mix with girls there."

The next day, Al Gala said he left the country and returned to Vancouver.

"I was never deported," he admitted. "I was asked to leave the festival, not the country."

Vancouver model Omar Borkan Al Gala poses in Gastown on Jan. 15 after an exclusive interview in which he revealed the truth behind reports he was kicked out of Saudi Arabia for being 'too handsome.' JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

Reports quickly surfaced that three men from the United Arab Emirates had been deported from Saudi Arabia due to fears their good looks would lead women astray.

Although he knew the articles weren't entirely accurate, Al Gala said he decided to stay mum in the hopes it would build his mystique as a model.

He was right.

Within 48 hours, his Facebook page had more than 800,000 likes. Today, he has more than two million.

"I hit the lottery," he said. "The first day the news was in the Asian world, and the next day it was in Mexico. That's when we knew it was going viral."

Soon after, Al Gala said he secured an agent and manager. Today, he said he travels extensively for photo shoots and has lucrative modeling contracts, including a deal with Samsung as a product ambassador.

Although he credits the Saudi Arabia incident for kick starting his modeling career, Al Gala said he hopes to one day leave his "too handsome" title behind.

"I don't like it much," he said, adding with a laugh: "There's so many people who are way better looking than me."

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City bird. Finest bird minds flock to Vancouver in 2018

It seems that all the tweeting from Vancouver's city bird contest attracted the attention of the globe's most celebrated bird scientists.

The International Ornithological Congress has decided to host its 27th annual conference in Vancouver in 2018, the city announced Thursday.

More than 2,000 scientists from 100 countries will come together for what city officials called the "most prestigious event for bird scientists around the world."

The city expects the conference will result in a big economic boost as well as put Vancouver on the map as a bird watching destination.

In the lead up to the conference, the city is busy working on a Vancouver bird strategy that aims at creating conditions for native birds to thrive in the urban landscape.

Council will vote next week whether to approve the strategy, which identifies the top killers of the city's 250 bird species as domestic cats, urbanization and collisions with glass buildings.

The city suggests teaming with the B.C. SPCA to educate pet owners about their bird-killing kittens, as cats kill an estimated 100 to 350 million birds in Canada annually.

It also recommends creating bird friendly building design guidelines to prevent birds from slamming into windows and landscape design guidelines to create welcoming habitats. Both of these measures will be voluntary.

The city will also create resources for tourists such as birding hot spot maps in an attempt to grab a share of the massive U.S. birder market.

Bird watchers south of the border spend $41 billion annually on trips and equipment, according to a 2011 report from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Expensive hobby

41

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service reported in 2011 that bird watchers in the United States spent $41 billion annually on bird-watching trips and equipment.

Affordable housing

Most developer contributions put toward creating housing facilities

To stop neighbours from grumbling about extra density from tall towers, developers traditionally pay community amenity contributions to ease the pressure of more residents sharing parks and community facilities.

But these perks aren't always visible.

In 2013, half of the $133 million Vancouver pulled in from developers went to affordable housing, with smaller fractions going to parks, community facilities and heritage, according to the annual report.

It's all part of city council's top priority of increasing the number of affordable housing units, assistant director of city-wide policy Jane Pickering said Thursday.

The allocations change yearly depending on what neighbourhoods need, but affordable housing got the higher share in 2013 due to council's attempts to help people of all incomes continue to live in the city, Pickering said.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

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Kicking up a stink. Residents protest sewer sludge dump in town

Merritt residents are mad about what they see as a crappy deal that lets Abbotsford and the Regional District of Central Okanagan dump sewage sludge in their backyards.

Last fall, the municipalities hired waste company Bio-Central to haul their sewage sludge — the stuff left over after sewage passes through a wastewater treatment plant — to a composting location near the Nooaitch First Nation in Merritt, after which it will be spread on fields, farmland and ranchland.

Resident Georgia Clement can already smell the sewage sludge from her home five kilometres away and is concerned about the health effects if heavy metals leak into the groundwater. "This is a real smelly, toxic mess.... We're becoming inundated with this product," she said Thursday.

A protest sign in Merrit METRO

She is petitioning the local health officer to prevent the municipalities from spreading the final product at Dry Lake, a plot less than one kilometre away from her 44-lot subdivision that gets its drinking water from one well.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Oscars. Canadian Punjabi film just misses out on prestigious nomination

A feature film written, produced, directed and shot in Surrey has narrowly missed out on a nomination at this year's Academy Awards.

Writer/director Harpreet Sandhu's Work Weather Wife, a Canadian Punjabi film tackling the issue of honour killings, was one of the few Canadian productions up for an Oscar after making the final shortlist in the Best Original Song category.

But when the final nominations were announced on Thursday morning, Work Weather Wife didn't make the cut. That hasn't dulled Sandhu's enthusiasm, who says he didn't expect his independent film to garner such strong recognition.

"I couldn't sleep all night. It's been really exciting," Sandhu said of being shortlisted.

"Especially since we didn't have a studio behind us. We produced it out of our own pocket. We wrote it ourselves, directed it, shot it, trained the actors, everything."

The Oscar buzz is helping Sandhu distribute the film internationally though, with it only having screened in Canada and the U.S. to date.

MATT KIELTYKA METRO

Nicholson Towers, on 1115 Nelson St., is one of two Vancouver social-housing buildings being sold by BC Housing. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

MLA hopes affordable housing call is reversed

'A big mistake'. Opposition's Spencer Chandra Herbert is against selling off Nicholson Towers, Stamps Place

An opposition MLA is preparing a final push to prevent the government from making "a big mistake" in selling two Vancouver social-housing buildings.

Last year, BC Housing put out a request for expressions of interest (REOI) on Nicholson Towers in the West End and Stamps Place in Strathcona, with the intention of selling off nearly 600 units of subsidized housing to a non-profit housing provider. The REOIs closed Nov. 3. Vancouver-West End NDP MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert says he's been lobbying housing minister Rich Coleman to reverse the decision, to no avail.

He fears deals are imminent and that a provision allowing 50 per cent of the units to be rented out at market rates puts 300 low-income families at risk. "Affordable housing, particularly low-income housing, is so hard to find in Metro Vancouver, that phasing out 300 low-income units makes the housing crisis even worse," said Chandra Herbert. "It's a really bad decision, and hopefully it's not too late to stop the minister from making a big mistake."

Opposed

"Affordable housing, particularly low-income housing, is so hard to find in Metro Vancouver, that phasing out 300 low-income units makes the housing crisis even worse."

Vancouver-West End NDP MLA Spencer Chandra Herbert

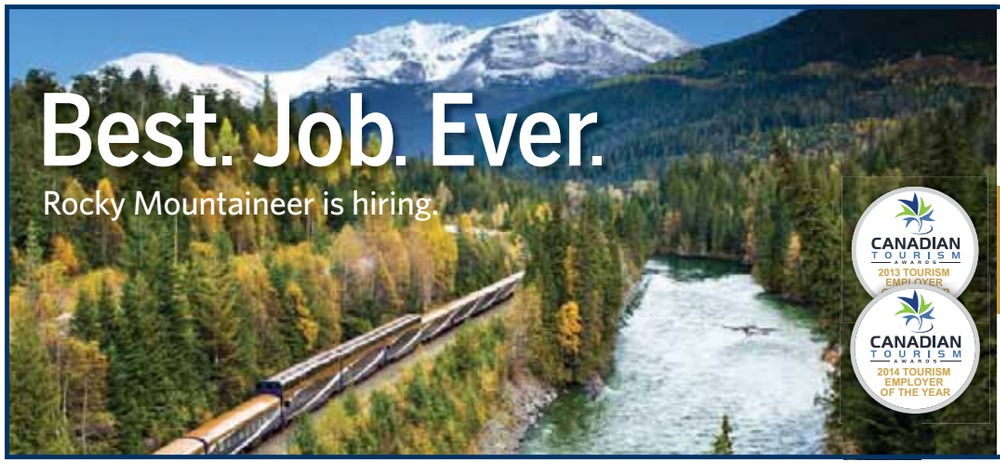
Chandra Herbert is asking for the support of the city, which already wrote to Coleman and Premier Christy Clark in October to put a hold on the sales.

The mayor's office said Gregor Robertson will meet with the NDP MLA soon and that the city will continue to voice community concerns to the B.C. government.

Coleman was not available for an interview. BC Housing said the selection process for non-profit housing providers remain ongoing.

Current tenants and their rental agreements will remain in place after the transfer of ownership, the authority says.

METRO



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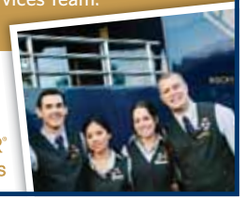

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Target Corp. to close 133 Canadian stores

Billions lost. Target expects US$5.4 billion in losses over its last quarter, mostly from its underperforming Canadian stores

Workers install an outdoor sign at the new Target store at the Mic Mac Mall in Dartmouth, N.S. on July 20, 2013. Target says it will discontinue operating its 133 Canadian stores. ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Less than two years after Target Corp. threw open the doors of its first Canadian stores with grand expectations, the discount retailer is retreating back to the United States in defeat.

The Minneapolis-based company said Thursday it has decided to wind up its money-losing operations in Canada, a move that affects 133 stores and 17,600 employees across most of the country.

"After a thorough review of our Canadian performance and careful consideration of the implications of all options, we were unable to find a realistic scenario that would get Target Canada to profitability until at least 2021," said Target chairman and chief executive Brian Cornell in the announcement.

Before its launch, Target was once considered the biggest threat to Canadian businesses, partly because its reputation with consumers was unique. Many Canadians would trek south of the border to wander the aisles of U.S. Target stores searching for deals and products they couldn't find at home.

But when Target arrived in Canada the story wasn't the same, as complaints flooded social media about empty shelves, high prices and a selection that fell short of expectations.

Target Corp. will record about US$5.4 billion in pre-tax losses in its fourth-quarter, with most of it related to the Canadian operation.

The company said it would provide US$175 million of credit to fund Target Canada's operations while it winds down under the Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act, or CCAA, a Canadian equivalent to the U.S. Bankruptcy Act.

RBC analyst Irene Nattel said it is unclear who would be in a position to take over Target's 133 stores.

Target says the stores will remain open during a court-supervised liquidation period and it's working to ensure employees are paid at least 16 weeks of severance.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Target. Closures send 'a very strong message'

U.S. retailers planning to cross the border can learn some valuable lessons from the failure of Target, which announced Thursday it is shutting down its 133 Canadian stores just two years after its much-anticipated launch.

"It's a huge thing, after two years, for a brand like Target to wave the white flag," said Doug Stephens, the founder of Toronto-based consulting firm Retail Prophet. "I think that really sends a very strong message to others that maybe the Canadian market isn't the easy pickings that they thought it might be."

Canadians, who had high hopes for the discount retailer known for its broad product selection and low prices, were underwhelmed when they discovered bare shelves and less-than-impressive pricing in the new locations.

It all speaks to the importance of understanding the Canadian market and making a good first impression, Stephens said.

"You've got to deliver on customer expectations or exceed them."

Target's missteps, including supply chain issues that left shelves nearly empty during the all-important launch, could serve as a cautionary tale for other U.S. retailers, experts say.

Quoted

"You've got to deliver on customer expectations or exceed them."

Retail Prophet founder Doug Stephens

Retail analyst Mark Satov says the biggest lesson for U.S. retailers is to test the Canadian market by entering at a gradual pace, rather than opening a large number of stores at once.

"You dip your toe into a new market and you learn, while controlling the potential loss," Satov said.

When Target first entered Canada, they opened more than 120 stores in the first year — a "Herculean feat" for any retailer, said Stephens.

Ultimately, Target failed to grasp some of the nuances of the Canadian market that its more established competitors understood, said Satov.

While U.S. chains may pause to consider Target's failure, the company's exodus is good news for other Canadian retailers, with Walmart Canada and Canadian Tire set to benefit the most, according to RBC analyst Irene Nattel.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Shoppers browse at a Target store in Toronto on Thursday. Target says it will close its stores in Canada — a market that it entered only two years ago.

COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Retailers off-target

Target is far from the first retailer that has had trouble breaking into other markets. Here are some others:

- **Walmart.** The world's largest retailer, which now operates in 27 countries, rarely acknowledges defeat. But in 2006, the Bentonville, Arkansas-based discounter, threw in the towel in Germany.
- **Best Buy.** In January 2013, the consumer electronics chain said it would close 15 of its stores in Canada and cut about 5 per cent of its workforce in the country as it tries to revamp its strategy there. In November 2011, it said it was closing all 11 of its U.K. big-box stores.
- **Sony.** Sony Corp. also announced it would be closing its 14 retail stores in Canada; they will be shut down over the next six to eight weeks. The company said its products will still be available online.

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#BellLetsTalk

Mary Walsh

Bell Let's Talk

bell.ca/letstalk

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AirAsia wreckage

Bad weather hinders search

Bad weather and poor underwater visibility on Thursday prevented Indonesian navy divers from searching inside the large chunk of AirAsia jet wreckage that is believed to be the fuselage.

At least 15 divers descended to the seabed at a depth of 28 metres to examine the piece of wreckage, calculate its weight and search for bodies.

They were unable to do so because of the weather and sea conditions, said the operation director at the National Search and Rescue Agency. When bodies are found, divers will put them in body bags and hoist them to the surface. The section of the plane's body was first spotted Wednesday by a Singaporean navy ship.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

West Texas

Returning to the scene of a deadly prison bus crash

Investigators trying to determine the cause of a West Texas prison bus crash that killed eight inmates and two guards were returning to the site Thursday to sift through the debris.

The state Department of Criminal Justice bus skidded on an icy overpass, slid down an embankment and collided with a passing Union Pacific freight train Wednesday morning, leaving the bus a crumpled mass in Penwell near Odesa. Eight prisoners and two long-time prison department officers, including the driver, were killed.

The prisoners did not have seat belts and were handcuffed together in pairs, officials said.

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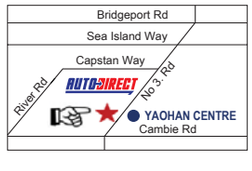

Pallbearers carry the casket of Charlie Hebdo cartoonist Bernard Verlhac, known as Tignous, decorated by colleagues. MICHEL EULER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

France hit by cyberattacks

Charlie Hebdo fallout. France is on edge since last week's terror attacks; French president seeks to calm religious tensions

Hackers have targeted about 19,000 French websites since a rampage by Islamic extremists left 20 dead last week, a top French cyberdefence official said Thursday as the president tried to calm the nation's inflamed religious tensions.

France is on edge since last week's attacks, which began Jan. 7 at the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo.

The paper, repeatedly threatened for its caricatures of the Muslim Prophet Muhammad, buried several of its slain staff members Thursday even as it reprinted another weekly issue with Muhammad on its cover.

Calling it an unprecedented surge, Adm. Arnaud Coustilliere, head of cyberdefense for the French military, said about 19,000 French websites had faced cyberattacks in recent days, some carried out by well-known Islamic hacker groups.

The attacks, mostly relatively minor denial-of-service attacks, hit sites as varied as military regiments to pizza shops but none appeared to have caused serious damage, he said. Military authorities launched round-the-clock surveillance to protect the government sites still coming under attack.

"What's new, what's important, is that this is 19,000 sites — that's never been seen before," Coustilliere said.

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Bombardier said it plans to put development of the Learjet 85, pictured above, on hold due to weak customer interest. CONTRIBUTED

Bombardier shares drop, jet on hold

Learjet 85. Slow sales, not technical issues, behind decision to pause development of jet, company chief says

Bombardier's shares plunged more than 25 per cent in heavy trading Thursday following a revised outlook for its aerospace business, including plans to put development of the Learjet 85 business jet on hold, eliminating 1,000 jobs in the United States and Mexico.

On the Toronto Stock Exchange, the Montreal-based company's shares dropped $1.07, or 25.85 per cent, to a more-than-two-year low of $3.07 on a very heavy volume of some 65 million shares.

The aerospace and rail equipment manufacturer said before markets opened that it would "pause" development of the Learjet 85, but continue to sell other models and focus on two other aircraft programs — the Global 7000/8000 business jet and the much-delayed CSeries passenger jet for commercial airlines.

About 600 employees who worked on the Learjet 85 will be switched to the Global and CSeries projects, the company said.

President and CEO Pierre Beaudoin confirmed slow sales and weak immediate prospects for improvement in the smaller business jet market were behind the Learjet 85 decision, not because of any further technical problems with the aircraft, whose first flight was delayed until last April.

Beaudoin denied that Thursday's announcement signals that Bombardier is in peril. "We have a product line where we are the global leaders in business aircraft, regional aircraft and in our train business," he said.

The Learjet announcement follows last year's elimination of 2,900 positions around the world. It laid off more than 200 workers last June because of delays in the Learjet 85 flight test program.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR
83.58¢
(-0.14¢)

TSX
14,041.82 (- 42.61)

OIL
$46.25 US (-$2.23)

GOLD
$1,264.80 US (+$30.30)

Natural gas: $3.158 US (-7.5¢)
Dow Jones: 17,320.71 (- 106.38)

BlackBerry. Shares give back recent gains

BlackBerry shares have given back a little over half of the spectacular gains that they made Wednesday after a news report said the smartphone company had been approached by rival Samsung with a takeover offer. Both have since issued denials.

BlackBerry responded late Wednesday that it has not engaged in discussions with Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd. about a possible takeover and Samsung sent an email saying the report was "groundless."

Reuters said Samsung had met with BlackBerry executives over the possibility of buying the Canadian company for $7.5 billion US.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

January 16 - 22

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VOICES

PUTTING A CAULKING GUN IN YOUR BUTT IS NOT BEAUTIFUL

THE KOHLER REPORT
By Rebecca Kohler

How far would you go to get an ass like Kim Kardashian's? Would you do 700 squats a week to build your glutes? Or eat a bucket of KFC per day in hopes of plumping up? Maybe both at once?

Would you meet a woman, claiming to be a nurse who trained in South America, in a hotel room and pay her thousands of dollars to inject "something" into your buttock using a caulking gun? If it's the last one, you wouldn't be alone.

It was reported this week that Toronto-area woman Marilyn Ely Reid pleaded guilty to eight counts of aggravated assault after injecting at least nine women's bum-bums with poly-methyl-methacrylate (PMMA), a hard plastic used as a shatter-resistant alternative to regular glass, among other things. The "procedure," which is not approved by Health Canada, led to severe complications in most of the women and, according to doctors, could have been fatal.

Marilyn Reid is clearly an opportunistic monster who should certainly go to jail. But this story saddened me past the fact that some people are terrible.

I have insecurities: face, stomach, overall entire body, the usual. I won't lie, I've Googled certain plastic surgery procedures out of curiosity. There was one involving the under-eye area I was even tempted to pursue, but then I read that there was a two-week healing period.

I realized I'd either have to hide in a cave for two weeks or go out in public and admit that I'd had plastic surgery. I very quickly decided my eyes weren't that bad and went to Shoppers and bought an overpriced cream that I made myself believe would work instead.

I get wanting to "improve" yourself. And I don't want to judge the women who trusted Marilyn Reid and say they should have known that aside from prostitutes and drug dealers, anyone who wants to conduct business in a hotel room is shady at best. But why would these women risk their lives for a passing fad? How long will big butts even be the bomb?

Nicki Minaj and Meghan Trainor are in today, but whose butt will we look to tomorrow? The media is like a weather forecast for your self-esteem. If you have a booty today, great, you're all set. But next time the Twiggy-tuckus is in and you get liposuction, should you save the fat? Keep it in a Ziploc and freeze it so when round rears come back, you can have your butt reinstated?

A quick Google of PMMA brings up some scary stuff. Once it's in your body, it's difficult to remove. Infections are common and pieces of the stuff can get loose in your blood stream and cause all sorts of havoc.

One of Reid's victims was left permanently disfigured, others developed abscesses, infections and one woman was in the hospital for three weeks and couldn't work for an entire year. All this to look better twerking?

I found this post in an Ask an Expert forum: "I had PMMA injections done on my butt in November and I wanted to know when does it stop growing and are there any long term side effects?"

Imagine having a substance in your body that won't stop "growing." And imagine having to resort to the Internet for medical advice because when you tried to ask the person who administered your injections you realized it was just a circus monkey in a white coat.

From Marilyn Monroe to Kate Moss to Kim Kardashian, society itself is on a yo-yo diet and everyone knows yo-yo dieting is bad for you. I'm not saying we can't admire Kardashian's butt, it's an amazing butt, but, do you really want to die for it?

Rebecca Kohler is a stand-up comic, writer, actor, gymnast, lawyer and chemist. (Some of this isn't true.) Follow her on Twitter at @becca_kohler

Target says goodbye

FAREWELL, DEAR TARGET

EVIE SABEAN
readers@metronews.ca

When you receive texts from multiple people conveying their condolences to you on the closure of Target, you start to realize you may have a problem.

Thankfully I was already wearing black and didn't have to rush home and put on my mourning clothes.

I have been to Target in the United States, and yes, it is far superior. However, Target Canada was still better than my other options. And the clearance? Amazing! When I got $75 video games for $10 and gave them out at kids' birthday parties I felt like Oprah handing out cars. Our family moved into a new home this past year, and the whole place is basically a Target store ad. On closing day when we picked up our keys, we stopped at Target before we went home to pick up the flatbed trolley of furniture I had on hold.

We didn't have a dining room table or a bed, but we had a blue velvet bench with tufted buttons. (On clearance, thank you very much.)

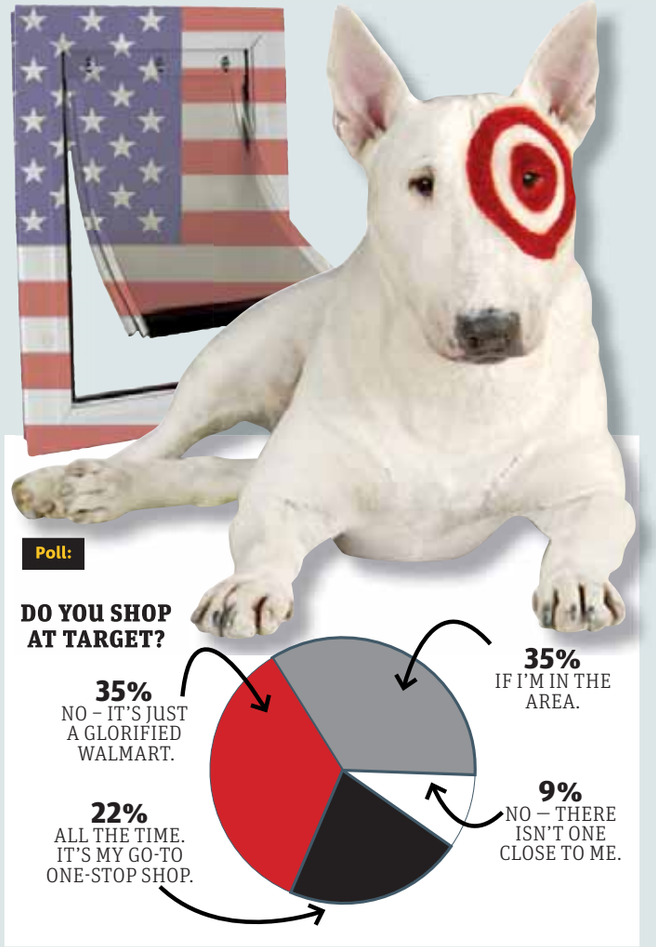
Oh, Target. The place where I have browsed, tried on, and spent too much (way too much) money. It's where I learned that 70 per cent off really did exist and people in red shirts and khakis were the grownup version of Disney characters. It's where I went at least a couple times a week to hide from my husband and two young kids and get lost in the never-ending supply of chevron fashion scarves.

I may hold a memorial service for Target.

I'll serve tea sandwiches on a stylish metal tray from the kitchen department, guests can sit on one of the slipper chairs I purchased from the furniture department, and we'll wipe our tears away with tissues from home essentials.

So long, Target. Although my husband and my Visa bill won't miss you, I definitely will.

Evie Sabean lives in Bedford, N.S. and will soon have more time on her hands and money in her pocket.



TARGET DIDN'T LIVE UP TO EXPECTATIONS

BERNICE PONTANILLA
readers@metronews.ca

Confession time: As one of those rare Manitobans who didn't shop across the border, Target always seemed an enigma to me, like a far-off Shangri-La.

Those people I knew who did make the trip to Grand Forks would return with stories of cheap clothes, foods, and brand names that weren't available in Canada.

When Target announced it was moving into Winnipeg, I didn't know what to expect, but there were thousands of my fellow 'Peggers who did.

The rich man's Zellers

Target seemed to look the same as when its predecessor Zellers had its liquidation sale, albeit more clean.

And it seems Target simply didn't live up to expectations. It sure didn't for me about three weeks before this past Halloween, when the flyer brandishing cheap candy brought me to the Kildonan Place store on the same Friday the sale prices kicked in. But there was nothing when I got there in the afternoon — on the same day the sale started. Bare shelves were a common problem; Target seemed to look the same as when its predecessor Zellers had its liquidation sale, albeit more clean. The prices weren't as good as the other big box stores, and if there isn't enough stock, customers won't waste time going there.

I'm not shedding a tear at Target's departure, though I am heartbroken at the 17,600 people who've lost their jobs. In Canada, Target just wasn't our Shangri-La.

Bernice Pontanilla is a senior reporter for Metro Winnipeg.

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We can't hack more hacker plots

Analysis. Universal has been mum on finding links between the Sony scandal and their high-tech thriller Blackhat

Chris Hemsworth plays the world's hottest computer nerd in Blackhat. CONTRIBUTED

Sometimes clichés are clichés because they are true. No news is good news. A penny saved is a penny earned. Any publicity is good publicity.

No news is usually good news — unless you're the editor of a newspaper with blank pages to fill — and the math behind a penny saved is a penny earned isn't so hard to figure out, but recently the veracity of any publicity being good publicity has been put to the test.

The Sony hack and ensuing commotion that swirled around the Seth Rogen movie The Interview garnered headlines around the world, moving the story off the entertainment pages and into the news sections.

Stories, some true some not, and reviews, some good, some not, lit up social media.

The brouhaha surrounding the film lived at the very heart of popular culture for several weeks and even President Obama weighed in. But notwithstanding the endorsement of the most powerful film critic in the world, the movie is unlikely to actually make money.

The Guardian suggests The Interview's total cost sits somewhere near $80 million in production and marketing costs, and at the time of this writing has only earned $36 million in digital rentals, purchases and traditional theatrical receipts. The Guardian also says Sony could be facing "damage north of $1 billion by some estimates" as a result of the hack.

So, if this was all a massive publicity stunt, as asserted by certain outspoken twitterratti, it was a marketing failure of Titanic proportions and it could even hurt the box office of other films.

This weekend Blackhat stars Chris Hemsworth as the world's best-looking computer hacker, now serving a 15-year sentence for internet crime.

Authorities give him a get-out-of-jail-free card because he's the only computer whiz on earth geekified enough to stop a cyber terrorist from causing havoc.

You might think a hacking movie would be perfectly timed to take advantage of the hoopla surrounding the Sony situation and yet Universal made no attempt to connect the dots between real-life events and their movie.

Why? The New York Times, quoting unnamed sources, opined that "ticket buyers could be tired of hacking stories after weeks of media attention on Sony, and a film that is too topical might strike potential viewers as less entertaining."

Perhaps Universal's decision not to cash in on the publicity generated by real life events reveals there is no room for current events in a marketplace where two of the top 10 grossing movies of 2014 were based on toy lines (the rest were inspired by novels and comic books) or maybe that sound we hear is the swoosh of an old cliché swirling down the bowl.

In Focus

RICHARD CROUSE

Blackhat

Director. Michael Mann

Stars. Chris Hemsworth, Viola Davis

Cyber crime is a hot-button topic but it doesn't make for very compelling cinema. Blackhat, director Michael Mann's new thriller, is hampered by a lack of drama. Chris Hemsworth plays a genius hacker sprung from prison to help the FBI and Chinese government track down a cyber terrorist, but endless scenes of Hemsworth furiously typing on a laptop aren't the stuff thrillers are made of. Mann tries to spice things up with frenetic shots of a camera racing along wires and onto the information highway, but we've seen that in every hacker movie ever made so it comes across as a hack move in a movie without much to offer. He does stage the occasional heart-pounding action scene, but at 133 minutes the movie feels in need of a reboot.

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And the 2015 Academy Award nominees are...

Michael Keaton and Edward Norton in Birdman.

It's the moment you — or at least professional "Oscar prognosticators" — have been waiting for. The Oscar nominations have been announced. The show airs Feb. 22, giving you less than a month to catch up with Selma, Still Alice, Whiplash and — who are we kidding? You're just going to see Taken 3 again.

Among the notable snubs, incidentally: Selma for everything but Best Picture and Best Song, Ralph Fiennes for The Grand Budapest Hotel, The Lego Movie and the Roger Ebert doc Life Itself. Then again, Marion Cotillard for Two Days, One Night!

Best Picture
- American Sniper
- Birdman
- Boyhood
- The Grand Budapest Hotel
- The Imitation Game
- Selma
- The Theory of Everything
- Whiplash

Best Director
- Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, Birdman
- Richard Linklater, Boyhood
- Bennett Miller, Foxcatcher
- Wes Anderson, The Grand Budapest Hotel
- Morten Tylden, The Imitation Game

Best Actor
- Steve Carell, Foxcatcher
- Bradley Cooper, American Sniper
- Benedict Cumberbatch, The Imitation Game
- Michael Keaton, Birdman
- Eddie Redmayne, The Theory of Everything

Best Actress
- Marion Cotillard, Two Days, One Night
- Felicity Jones, The Theory of Everything
- Julianne Moore, Still Alice
- Rosamund Pike, Gone Girl
- Reese Witherspoon, Wild

Best Supporting Actor
- Robert Duvall, The Judge
- Ethan Hawke, Boyhood
- Edward Norton, Birdman
- Mark Ruffalo, Foxcatcher
- J.K. Simmons, Whiplash

Best Supporting Actress
- Patricia Arquette, Boyhood
- Laura Dern, Wild
- Keira Knightley, The Imitation Game
- Emma Stone, Birdman
- Meryl Streep, Into the Woods

Best Adapted Screenplay
- American Sniper
- The Imitation Game
- Inherent Vice
- The Theory of Everything
- Whiplash

Best Original Screenplay
- Birdman
- Boyhood
- Foxcatcher
- The Grand Budapest Hotel
- Nightcrawler

Best Foreign Film
- Ida
- Leviathan
- Tangerines
- Timbuktu
- Wild Tales

Best Documentary Feature
- Citizenfour
- Finding Vivian Maier
- Last Days in Vietnam
- Virunga
- Salt of the Earth

Best Animated Feature
- Big Hero 6
- The Boxtrolls
- How to Train Your Dragon 2
- Song of the Sea
- The Tale of the Princess Kaguya

Best Song
- The Lego Movie
- Selma
- Beyond the Lights
- Glen Campbell: I'll Be Me
- Begin Again

Best Cinematography
- Birdman
- The Grand Budapest Hotel
- Ida
- Mr. Turner
- Unbroken

Best Visual Effects
- Captain America
- Dawn of the Planet of the Apes
- Guardians of the Galaxy
- Interstellar
- X-Men: Days of Future Past

MATT PRIGGE/METRO

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Selma, Fiennes, Aniston among the Oscar snubs

Academy Awards. Selma receives token nominations, while Ralph Fiennes and Jake Gyllenhaal join Aniston in getting cold shoulder

Reese Witherspoon in Wild. CONTRIBUTED

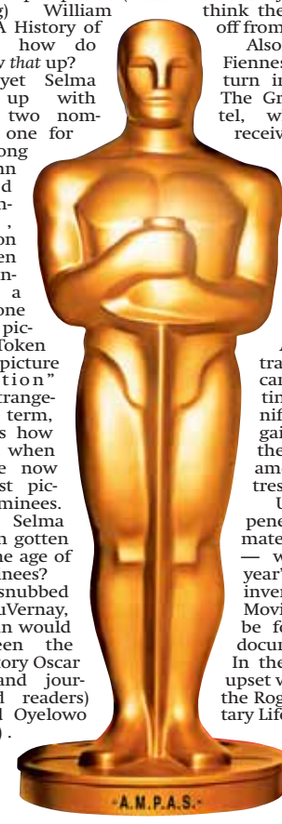
MATT PRIGGE
Metro in New York City

The big takeaway from the Oscar nominations isn't what *was* nominated but what wasn't.

Selma seemed like a no-brainer Academy Awards shoe-in: the first Hollywood film about Martin Luther King Jr. (played by David Oyelowo), directed not by a white man but by a black woman (Ava DuVernay), released into the world amidst race-related marches and protests not too dissimilar from the ones recreated in the film. To paraphrase (with censoring) William Hurt in A History of Violence, how do you screw *that* up?

And yet Selma wound up with a mere two nominations, one for best song (by John Legend and Common, that won a Golden Globe Sunday) and a token one for best picture. "Token best picture nomination" is a strange-sounding term, but that's how it goes when there are now eight best picture nominees. Would Selma have even gotten that in the age of five nominees?

Also snubbed were DuVernay, whose win would have been the kind of story Oscar voters (and journos, and readers) love, and Oyelowo (ditto). But hey, AMAPS feted 12 Years a Slave last year, so maybe they think they can take a year off from caring about race?



Also ignored was Ralph Fiennes' alert, hilarious turn in Wes Anderson's The Grand Budapest Hotel, which nonetheless received nine nominations — the most of any single film. (In second came Birdman, with eight.) Jake Gyllenhaal was MIA for his electric turn as a sociopathic freelance journalist in Nightcrawler. And after a baldly transparent Oscar campaign for her tiny film Cake, Jennifer Aniston — who gained weight for the film — was not among the best actress nominees.

Upsets also happened in the best animated feature category — where one of the year's biggest and most inventive hits, The Lego Movie, was nowhere to be found — and best documentary feature. In the latter, the major upset was the omission of the Roger Ebert documentary Life Itself, to say nothing of films like Frederick Wiseman's National Gallery.

In brighter news, Marion Cotillard received a surprise nomination for the Belgian drama Two Days, One Night — a surprise only because it's a small film that definitely deserves any and all accolades. The Polish film Ida joined the Russian tragedy Leviathan, both excellent, among nominees for best foreign language film. And despite being largely ignored by the Golden Globes, Clint Eastwood's non-jingoistic American Sniper walked off with six nominations, including picture and actor, for Bradley Cooper.

Perhaps the best news, after The Grand Budapest Hotel's many noms, is Boyhood and its six nominations, including picture, director (for Richard Linklater), and supporting actress (Patricia Arquette) and actor (Ethan Hawke). Filmed piecemeal over 12 years, Boyhood won the Golden Globe for best picture (drama) and seems to be the frontrunner for the biggest trophy.

Also continuing their awards season dominance were Birdman, The Imitation Game and The Theory of Everything, which cleaned up in the acting categories. And if anyone cares, Interstellar received two separate sound nominations, despite complaints that at times few could even make out what the hell the actors were saying.

The ceremony airs on Sunday, Feb. 22.

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Comedy

Paddington

Director. Paul King

Stars. Nicole Kidman, Hugh Bonneville

From the beloved novels by Michael Bond and producer David Heyman (Harry Potter), Paddington tells the story of the comic misadventures of a young Peruvian bear (voiced by Firth) who travels to the city in search of a home. Finding himself lost and alone, he begins to realize that city life is not all he had imagined — until he meets the kindly Brown family.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 96% **Audience:** 87%

Comedy

The Wedding Ringer

Director. Jeremy Garelick

Stars. Josh Gad, Kevin Hart

Doug Harris (Josh Gad) is a lovable but socially awkward groom-to-be with a problem: He has no best man. With less than two weeks to go until he marries the girl of his dreams (Kaley Cuoco-Sweeting), Doug is referred to Jimmy Callahan (Kevin Hart), owner and CEO of Best Man, Inc., a company that provides flattering best men for socially challenged guys in need. What ensues is a hilarious wedding charade.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: No reviews yet **Audience:** +93%

Drama

American Sniper

Director. Clint Eastwood

Stars. Bradley Cooper, Sienna Miller

From director Clint Eastwood comes American Sniper, starring Bradley Cooper as Chris Kyle, the most lethal sniper in U.S. military history. U.S. Navy SEAL sniper Kyle is sent to Iraq with only one mission: to protect his brothers-in-arms. His pinpoint accuracy saves countless lives on the battlefield. However, his reputation is also growing behind enemy lines, putting a price on his head.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 74% **Audience:** + 99%

Mystery/Drama

Inherent Vice

Director. Paul Thomas Anderson

Stars. Joaquin Phoenix

Inherent Vice is the seventh feature from Paul Thomas Anderson and the first-ever film adaption of a Thomas Pynchon novel. Private eye Doc Sportello's ex-old lady suddenly shows up with a story about her current billionaire boyfriend, and a plot by his wife and her boyfriend to kidnap that billionaire and throw him in a looney bin...well, easy for her to say.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 73% **Audience:** +94%

Action/Adventure

Taken 3

Director. Olivier Megaton

Stars. Liam Neeson, Maggie Grace

Liam Neeson returns as ex-covert operative Bryan Mills, whose reconciliation with his ex-wife is tragically cut short when she is brutally murdered. Consumed with rage, and framed for the crime, he goes on the run to evade the relentless pursuit of the CIA, FBI and the police. For one last time, Mills must use his "particular set of skills," to track down the real killers.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 31% **Audience:** +96%

Drama

Winter Sleep

Director. Nuri Bilge Ceylan

Stars. Melisa Sözen, Haluk Bilginer

Aydin, a former actor, runs a small hotel in central Anatolia with his young wife Nihal with whom he has a stormy relationship and his sister Necla who is suffering from her recent divorce. In winter as the snow begins to fall, the hotel turns into a shelter but also an inescapable place that fuels their animosities.

Rotten Tomatoes™ score
Critics: 85% **Audience:** 85%

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Miller's career takes a turn for the serious

Movie roles. The U.K. actress used to be best known as tabloid fodder, but now she's landing some heavy-hitting parts

MATT PRIGGE
Metro in New York City

When she was younger, Sienna Miller was a paparazzi magnet. Photographers chased the English actress down streets, and the media obsessed over her relationships and dwelled on her beauty, not her acting.

Now, she seems to have taken drastic steps to shed all that. In 2012 she gave birth to her daughter, Marlowe, with her now-fiancé Tom Sturridge, and regularly describes their life as "boring."

But she's also back in high-profile movies, after years in smaller fare. She played Nancy Schultz, wife of Mark Ruffalo's doomed character, in Foxcatcher, and now plays Taya Kyle, wife of late Army sharpshooter Chris Kyle (played by Bradley Cooper) in Clint Eastwood's American Sniper. And there's plenty more where that came from.

Sienna Miller as Taya Kyle in American Sniper. CONTRIBUTED

In real life, Taya is very animated. She's definitely not just The Wife.
She's a real firecracker. She's definitely not just a military wife. Clint, I think, is so respectful of women and historically has made movies with great roles for women in them. He'd never have let her be one-dimensional. But it's not her story; it's Chris' story. I'd love to do a movie about Taya. She deserves it. You try to pack a lot into these small, infrequent moments that served the story. I do think her sense of humour, her feistiness shines through.

Taya was very involved with the making of this film and has done press. Was she there as you were filming?
She wasn't on set at all; she'd talk through all the takes. I say this because I love her. She's such an oracle for everyone leading up to it, then was happy to just let us make the film. On Foxcatcher, Nancy Schultz was on-set. That was intimidating, because you feel very self-conscious having the person you're playing watching what you're doing.

How lightly do you tread when talking to someone who suffered this kind of tragedy?
You want to explore every aspect of their relationship while trying to be sensitive of the fact that they're still mourning. With Nancy, it happened a long time ago. She's sort of made peace with it, as awful as it was. Taya is still raw. The man who shot Chris is going on trial in February. She's been in this relentless cycle that's punishing and unforgiving.

New opportunities

- "I made a pact after I had a baby that I wanted to work with the best people. I don't care about the size of the roles; I just want to be in great films, just to learn from these people. Ten weeks after I gave birth to my daughter I was sent Foxcatcher. And once that happened, it opened up opportunities with other filmmakers, because they would tell other directors what I was like to work with. It was quite a good strategy, actually."

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Nicole Kidman is relishing her latest rare comedic role

Paddington. Leather-clad, stiletto-wearing femme fatale character was written with the Aussie star in mind, director admits

Nicole Kidman plays Millicent in the new movie Paddington. CONTRIBUTED

Nicole Kidman knows most people don't consider her a comedic actress.

In her 31-year career, her roles have ranged from the morose to the deliciously sadistic. There are a few comedies, but she doesn't get many offers for that type of work.

She has won an Oscar and worked with Stanley Kubrick, Jane Campion, and Lars Von Trier. So how did she end up in a modest role as a delightfully villainous taxidermist in the children's film Paddington, with a relatively unknown director at the helm?

The answer is simple: She was asked.

"The desire to run the gamut and be diverse is something you're taught at drama school," said Kidman. "We're trained in Shakespeare and then we're trained in Noel Coward and we're trained in mime classes. But a lot of times you're not given the opportunity to explore the things you've cultivated."

For director Paul King, it was a no-brainer. But it wasn't Kidman's 1996 romantic fantasy romp Practical Magic that he was thinking of. He'd seen Gus Van Sant's To Die For and knew Kidman had to be his Millicent. In the film, Millicent is a leather-clad, stiletto-wearing femme fatale who will stop at nothing to stuff the iconic talking bear from Darkest Peru and put him in a museum.

"He wrote it for me. I'm not sure if that's a flattering thing or not," Kidman laughed.

King, who had mostly worked in British television, knew it was a long shot.

"You should never write for an actor because they'll just say no. But I did have her in mind," he said.

The hard part was convincing everyone to actually put the script in front of Kidman. As King describes it, it was a process of being politely insistent. Despite all the warnings that Kidman was "never" going to say yes, as soon as she heard the name Paddington, she jumped. Kidman had grown up reading Michael Bond's books in Australia and it just struck a nerve.

Ultimately, she was the easiest person to cast. She signed on in just 12 hours.

"You don't often see the silly side of Nicole and she's such a funny, easygoing person," said King, who really put the actress to the test. On Day 1, she was hanging upside down on wires and it got more challenging from there.

"I hope it gets a good response. It's smart," said Kidman of the movie, excitedly talking about how the physical comedy of the CG bear makes her two young daughters "squeal with laughter."

The past year was not exactly stellar for Kidman, with middling releases like the thriller Before I Go To Sleep and the historical drama The Railway Man, and the mysterious non-release of Grace of Monaco in the United States.

"It's sad," said Kidman of the Grace Kelly drama. "I put so much work into it. I would have loved for it to have been embraced."

But Kidman insists that she's "not the actor who makes strategic choices. If you look at my career, it's pretty random."

She is taking the reins where she can. She and Reese Witherspoon optioned the rights to the book Big Little Lies, which is in development as a limited series. She's also starring in and producing the adaptation of the quirky novel The Family Fang.

"My life is a roller coaster. My career is a roller coaster. Some people get smooth sailing. I never get that," she said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Melissa Joseph

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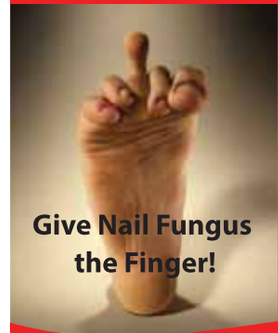

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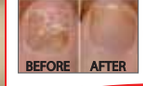

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Hemsworth whips into shape to play a brainy cyber hacker

Blackhat. Avengers' Thor had to slim down and improve his computer skills for his role as Hathaway in new Michael Mann cyber-security thriller

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News in Hollywood

Chris Hemsworth plays a computer hacker in Blackhat. CONTRIBUTED

When you hire the guy who plays Thor in The Avengers to be the lead hacker in your cyber-security drama, you accept that he's going to be one of those rare hackers in really, really good shape.

But Michael Mann wanted it to at least be plausible that Chris Hemsworth's superhuman physique could belong to an expert coder. So we meet Hathaway — Hemsworth's character in Blackhat — behind bars, doing time for computer crimes, and a lot of push-ups.

"Once I'm done with Thor, I get rid of that bulk and size because that just sort of screams that character," Hemsworth explains. "Me and Michael talked about the time he'd spent in prison. You go in one person and come out another and, through those experiences he was going to physically be able to handle himself."

Being able to pull that off meant more than the usual post-Thor slim-down.

"I wanted to do more with my training than just running on the treadmill and trying to get rid of the weight," he says. "I've boxed a lot in the past and done a lot of Muay Thai."

Of course, hitting the gym wasn't the only training Hemsworth had to undergo. He also had to pass muster behind a keyboard, something that was much more foreign to him.

So time spent with the cyber-security experts hired for the film — some of them former black hat hackers (the 'dark side' hackers) — proved invaluable.

"I was pretty limited in my digital, cyber involvement. It fascinated me," he says. "It became evident pretty quick that the majority of us knew nothing compared to what these guys knew.

"I remember asking one of the guys, 'Knowing what you know, do you look at the world differently? Do you feel you have an upper hand?'

"He just started laughing. He said, 'Man, people have no idea how exposed they are and vulnerable and what's possible.'

"And that's it, that's the power now: the brains. Not just in the criminal world but anywhere, they're the guys that are the superheroes, you know? That sort of highly intelligent, alien-type advancement that these guys seem to have within themselves was something that, every day, impressed me."

Also impressive was Mann's insistence on shooting on location, in places as authentic to the story as possible — which took them to Kuala Lumpur, Jakarta and Hong Kong.

"You could shoot on the backlot in L.A. somewhere, in some parking lot and mock it up on a green screen, which I've had plenty of over the years. But you have a visceral, physical response to being in those places," he explains.

"The sights and sounds and smells just bring something out of you, and you're not having to fake or imagine that it's there. It becomes as much of an actor — something you bounce off — as the other people you're working with.

"That was such a treat, to work in those places, which are loud and noisy."

Avatar sequels. James Cameron delays the first of three followup films

Director James Cameron said Wednesday that writing three Avatar sequels is such a complex job he will delay the first film by a year, so it will now be released in late 2017.

Cameron plans to film all of the highly anticipated sequels at one time and then release the three films over consecutive years.

The first had been due in late 2016, but he said the writing process proved to be "very involved" and that the initial target date was probably too ambitious.

"There's a layer of complexity in getting the story to work as a saga across three films that you don't get when you're making a stand-alone film," he said in Wellington, New Zealand, where he was helping promote the local film industry with other directors, including Peter Jackson.

Cameron said the goal is to have the three scripts completed this month. He's leading the writing team.

"We're writing three simultaneously. And we've done that so that everything tracks throughout the three films. We're not just going to do one and then make up another one and another one after that," he said. "And parallel with that, we're doing all the design. So we've designed all the creatures and the environments."

Cameron said it's important that each film links forward to the next one in a satisfying way, but also comes to a resolution so that the audience isn't left hanging.

Released in 2009, Avatar is the highest-grossing film in history, with a box-office take of nearly $2.8 billion. It was named best drama at the Golden Globes and won Academy Awards for cinematography, visual effects and art direction.

Cameron shot the original movie in New Zealand and is planning to shoot the sequels there.

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Chris Pratt starred in Guardians of the Galaxy. ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Theatre award. Chris Pratt chosen as Hasty Pudding Man of the Year

Guardians of the Galaxy star Chris Pratt has been named Man of the Year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals.

Pratt also co-stars on Parks & Recreation with Amy Poehler, who was named as Hasty Pudding Woman of the Year last week.

"We vehemently deny that the members of the Hasty Pudding Theatricals are obsessed with Parks & Recreation," says Jason Hellerstein, president of the student group.

Wednesday's announcement says Pratt became "a bona fide Hollywood heavyweight" in the past year.

Pratt will receive his pudding pot Feb. 6 following a parade through Harvard Square and a roast. Poehler will be honoured Jan. 29.

Last year's winners were Helen Mirren and Neil Patrick Harris.

Hasty Pudding Theatricals is America's oldest undergraduate drama troupe, dating to the late 18th century.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Remake. Affleck and Fincher will recreate classic Hitchcock thriller

Ben Affleck and David Fincher are reteaming for a remake of Alfred Hitchcock's Strangers on a Train.

On the heels of their box-office hit Gone Girl, the star and the director will reunite for a film based on the 1951 classic, in which two strangers meet on a train and conspire to carry out murders for one another.

Gone Girl scribe Gillian Flynn is expected to write the screenplay, which originally came from Patricia Highsmith's novel.

Fincher's thriller is to move the initial meeting to a plane.

Affleck will play the Farley Granger tennis star of the original, only he'll now be a Hollywood star in the midst of an Oscar campaign.

Gone Girl, itself in the mix for this year's Oscar mix, has made $365 million worldwide.

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Ben Affleck ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

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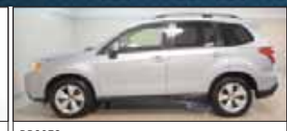
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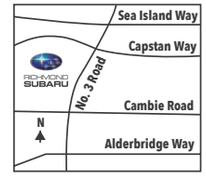

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OMNIMAX Theatre Science World, 1455 Quebec St.

Hidden Universe (STC) Fri 12-2 Sat-Thu 1
Island of Lemurs: Madagascar (G) Sat-Sun 12-2-4 Mon-Thu 12-2
Journey to the South Pacific: The IMAX Experience (STC) Fri 1 Sat-Thu 3
Santa vs. The Snowman (STC) Fri 3

Dunbar Theatre 4555 Dunbar Street

American Sniper (14A) Fri 3:45-7-9:45 Sat-Sun 1-3:45-7-9:45 Mon-Thu 3:45-7-9:45

Fifth Avenue Cinemas 2110 Burrard Street

Birdman or (The Unexpected Virtue of Ignorance) (14A) Fri-Sat 1:30-4:25-7:15-10 Sun-Tue 1:45-4:30-7:15-10 Wed 1:30-4:15-10 Thu 1:45-4:30-7:15-10
Inherent Vice (14A) Fri-Sat 12:15-3:30-6:50-10:10 Sun-Thu 1:30-4:45-8
Mr. Turner (PG) Fri-Sat 12:30-4-7:30 Sun-Thu 12:40-4-7:30
The Theory of Everything (G) Fri-Sun 1-3:50-6:40-9:30 Mon 1-3:50-9:30 Tue-Wed 1-3:50-6:40-9:30 Thu 1-3:50-9:30
Wild (14A) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7-9:45

The Cinematheque 1131 Howe Street

The Cinematheque Education Department Celebrates 20 Years (STC) Thu 7
The Image Before Us (STC) Mon 7
In Conversation With Sandra Oh (STC) Sun 6
In Her Place (STC) Fri 8:40
Maps to the Stars (18A) Fri 6:30
Monsoon (STC) Sat 6:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Tue
The Price We Pay (STC) Sat 8:40
Superman (STC) Sun 1
Troubled Children (STC) Wed 7:30

Park Theatre 3440 Cambie Street

The Imitation Game (PG) Fri 4:10-6:50-9:30 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-6:50-9:30 Mon 4:10-6:50 Tue 4:10-6:50-9:30 Wed-Thu 4:10-6:50
The Metropolitan Opera: The Merry Widow (STC) Sat 9:55

Rio on Broadway, 1660 E. Broadway

David Bowie Is (STC) Fri 7
Empire Records (STC) Fri 11:59
The Interview (14A) Mon-Tue 9:30
The Man Who Fell to Earth (STC) Fri 9:30
No Films Showing Today (STC) Sat-Sun Wed
Whiplash (14A) Mon-Tue 7

Scotiabank Theatre 900 Burrard St

American Sniper (14A) Fri 1-4-7-10:10 Sat 11:10-12:40-4-7-10:10 Sun 1-4-7-10:10 Mon 12:50-3:55-6:55-10 Tue 1-4-7-10:10 Wed-Thu 12:50-3:55-6:55-10 Fri 1:30-4:35-7:40-10:45 Sat 1:10-4:35-7:40-10:45 Sun 1:30-4:35-7:40-10:45 Mon 1:20-4:25-7:25-10:30 Tue 1:30-4:35-7:40-10:45 Wed-Thu 1:20-4:25-7:25-10:30
The Boy Next Door (14A) No Passes Thu 10:05
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:45-6:50 Mon 1:40-3:40-6:45 Tue 12:30-3:45-6:50 Wed-Thu 1:40-3:40
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:55-4:05-7:20-10:05-10:30 Mon 1-4:05-7:10-9:55-10:20 Tue 12:55-4:05-7:20-10:05-10:30 Wed-Thu 1-4:05-7:10-9:30-10:20
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 1:20-4:25-7:30-10:20 Mon 1:30-4:20-7:30-10:15 Tue 1:20-4:25-7:30-10:20 Wed-Thu 1:30-4:20-7:30-10:15
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:30 Sat 10:45-12:10-3:55-6:40-9:30 Sun 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:30 Mon 12:45-3:35-6:40-9:25 Tue 12:40-3:40-6:40-9:30 Wed 12:45-3:35-6:40-9:45 Thu 12:45-3:35-6:40-10:30 Fri 1:10-4:10-7:10-10 Sat 1:40-4:20-7:10-10 Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10-10 Mon 1:10-4-7:05-9:50 Tue 1:10-4:10-7:10-10 Wed 1:10-4-7:05-10:10 Thu 1:10-4-7:05-9:50
The Metropolitan Opera: The Merry Widow (STC) Sat 9:55
National Theatre Live: Treasure Island (STC) Thu 7
Taken 3 (14A) Fri 12:20-2:10-2:50-4:50-5:25-7:30-8-10:15-10:40 Sat 1:25-2:10-2:50-4:50-5:25-7:30-8-10:15-10:40 Sun 12:20-2:10-2:50-4:50-5:25-7:30-8-10:15-10:40 Mon 1:05-2:40-4:40-5:15-7:20-7:50-10:05-10:30 Tue 12:20-2:10-2:50-4:50-5:25-7:30-8-10:15-10:40 Wed 1:05-2:40-4:40-5:15-7:20-7:50-10:30 Thu 1:05-2:40-4:40-5:15-7:20-7:50-10:30

Vancity Theatre Vancouver International Film Centre 1181 Seymour Street

All That Jazz (STC) Mon 8:30
Awake: The Life of Yogananda (STC) Fri 4:30 Sat 10:10-12 Mon 12:30 Thu 4:45
The Babadook (STC) Fri-Sat 10:10
No Films Showing Today (STC) Wed
Shakespeare's Globe on Screen: The Tempest (STC) Sun 3
Showrunners: The Art of Running a TV Show (STC) Sat-Sun 8:45 Mon 6:15
Winter Sleep (PG) Fri 6:30 Sat 5:10 Sun 6:30 Mon 2:30 Tue 6:30 Thu 6:30

Van East Cinema
@2290 Commercial Drive, 604-251-1313
vaneast.com

Vancouver Aquarium 4D Experience Theatre
845 Avison Way, 604-659-3752 vanaqua.org
The Great Salmon Run 4D Experience (STC) Fri 11:45-1:15-3:15-4:20 Mon-Thu 11:45-1:15-3:15-4:20
The Polar Express 4-D Experience (STC) Sat-Sun 10:45-11:15-11:45-12:15-1:15-1:45-2:15-2:45-3:15-3:45-4:15-4:45

Esplanade 6

Selma. ATSUSHI NISHIJIMA/PARAMOUNT PICTURES

200 West Esplanade

American Sniper (14A) Fri 6:40-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:15-3:30-6:40-9:50 Mon-Thu 6:40-9:50
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Sat-Sun 3:15
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri 6:30-9:45 Sat-Sun 12-6:30-9:45 Mon-Thu 6:30-9:45
In Search of Beethoven (STC) Sun 10
Into the Woods (PG) Fri 6:35-9:25 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:25-6:35-9:25 Mon-Thu 6:35-9:25
Paddington (G) Fri 6:30-9 Sat-Sun 1-4-6:30-9 Mon-Thu 6:30-9
Taken 3 (14A) Fri 6:55-9:35 Sat-Sun 12:45-3:40-6:55-9:35 Mon-Thu 6:55-9:35
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri 6:45-9:40 Sat 12:50-3:50-6:45-9:40 Sun 1-3:50-6:45-9:40 Mon-Thu 6:45-9:40

Park & Tilford 333 Brooksbank Ave.

Blackhat (14A) No Passes Fri 6:50-10 No Passes Sat-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:50-10 No Passes Mon 6:50-10 No Passes Tue 3:40-6:50-10 No Passes Wed-Thu 6:50-10 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Thu 1
City Lights (STC) Mon 7
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri 7-9:55 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:15-7-9:55 Mon 7-9:55 Tue 4:15-7-9:55 Wed-Thu 7-9:55
Inherent Vice (14A) Fri 6:30-9:40 Sat-Sun 12:15-3:20-6:30-9:40 Mon 6:30-9:40 Tue 3:30-6:30-9:40 Wed-Thu 6:30-9:40
The Metropolitan Opera: The Merry Widow (STC) Sat 9:55
National Theatre Live: Treasure Island (STC) Thu 7
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Fri 7:15-9:45 Sat 10:45-2:35-5-7:15-9:45 Sun 2:35-5-7:15-9:45 Mon 9:45 Tue 4:20-7:15-9:45 Wed 7:15-9:45 Thu 9:45
Unbroken (PG) Fri 6:40-9:50 Sat-Sun 12:30-3:40-6:40-9:50 Mon 6:40-9:50 Tue 3:40-6:40-9:50 Wed 6:40-9:50 Thu 6:40
Wild (14A) Fri 7:10-9:50 Sat 10:30-1:20-4:15-7:10-9:50 Sun 1:20-4:15-7:10-9:50 Mon 7:10-9:50 Tue 4:15-7:10-9:50 Wed-Thu 7:10-9:50 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 1

SilverCity Riverport 14211 Entertainment Way

20 Once Again (STC) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:20-6:30-9:30 Mon 12:40-3:35-6:30-9:30 Tue 12:25-3:20-6:30-9:30 Wed-Thu 12:40-3:35-6:30-9:30
American Sniper (14A) Fri-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40
American Sniper: The IMAX Experience (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-3:40-6:40-9:45
Annie (G) Fri 1:10-4:10-7:10 Sat 11-1:10-4:10-7:10 Sun 1:10-4:10-7:10 Mon 1:10-4:10 Tue-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10
Big Hero 6 (G) Fri-Wed 1:55 Thu 1:30
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri-Wed 4:45-7:25 Thu 4:05
Blackhat (14A) No Passes Fri-Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30
The Boy Next Door (14A) No Passes Thu 10:30
City Lights (STC) Mon 7
Exhibition OnScreen: Girl With a Pearl Earring (STC) Sun 12:55
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Fri-Sun 3:30 Mon 3:40 Tue 3:30 Wed-Thu 3:40
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-6:50-10 Mon 12:30-6:50-10 Tue 12:20-6:50-10 Wed-Thu 12:30-6:50-10
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sat 1:45-4:35-7:35-10:35 Sun 4:35-7:35-10:35 Mon-Wed 1:45-4:35-7:35-10:35 Thu 1:45-4:35-7:35
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:25-10:25
Inherent Vice (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:50-7:05-10:30 Mon 12:40-3:50-7:05-10:30 Tue 12:30-3:50-7:05-10:30 Wed-Thu 12:40-3:50-7:05-10:30
Interstellar (PG) Fri-Wed 9:50
Into the Woods (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:25-7:15-10:15
Love on the Cloud (PG) Fri-Wed 9:50
The Metropolitan Opera: The Merry Widow (STC) Sat 9:55
Mortdecai (STC) Thu 10
National Theatre Live: Treasure Island (STC) Thu 7
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Fri 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20 Sat 11:20-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20 Sun 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20 Mon 2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20 Tue 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20 Wed-Thu 2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20
Paddington (G) Fri-Sun 12-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40 Mon 2-4:30-7:15-9:40 Tue 12-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40 Wed 2-4:30-7:15-9:40 Thu 4:30-7:15-9:40 Sat 11:10 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 2
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Sat 11
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri 12:35 Sat 11:10-12:35 Sun-Wed 12:35 Thu 2
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri-Wed 2:45-5:15-7:35 Thu 4:20
Selma (PG) Fri-Thu 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:20
Strange Magic (STC) Thu 7-9:45
Taken 3 (14A) Fri-Sun 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Mon 2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Tue 12-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Wed-Thu 2:40-5:20-8-10:40
The Taking of Tiger Mountain (14A) Fri 12:45-3:45-6:50-9:55 Sat 11:45-3:45-6:50-9:55 Sun-Thu 12:45-3:45-6:50-9:55
Unbroken (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-3:30-6:45-9:55 Mon 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:55 Tue 12:25-3:30-6:45-9:55 Wed 3:45-6:45-9:55 Thu 12:30-3:30-6:45-9:55
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri-Sun 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Mon 1:45-4:15-7-9:40 Tue 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Wed 1:45-4:15-7-9:40 Thu 4:25-7-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Thu 2
The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death (14A) Fri-Wed 10:10

SilverCity Metropolis 4700 Kingsway Ave.

American Sniper (14A) Fri 1:10-4:25-7:30-10:45 Sat 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:45 Sun 12:55-4:05-7:15-10:30 Mon-Thu 1:10-4:10-7:10-10:15
Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 2 Sat 11:20 Sun 1:45 Mon-Thu 1:20
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri 4:45-7:35 Sat 2-4:45-7:35 Sun 4:30-7:20 Mon-Wed 4:35-7:15 Thu 4:35
Blackhat (14A) No Passes Fri 1:20-4:20-7:20-10:30 No Passes Sat 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 No Passes Sun 12:45-3:55-7:05-10:15 No Passes Mon-Thu 1-4-7-10
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Fri 4:10 Sat 4:05 Sun 3:50 Mon-Thu 3:55
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri 1-7:25-10:35 Sat 12:45-7:25-10:35 Sun 12:30-7:10-10:20 Mon-Thu 1:25-7:05-10:10
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri 1:15-4-6:55-10:05 Sat 1:20-4-6:55-10:05 Sun 12:50-3:45-6:40-9:50 Mon-Wed 1:05-3:50-6:45-9:35 Thu 1:05-3:50-7:10-9:50
Into the Woods (PG) Fri 1:25-4:15-7:10-10:15 Sat 1:20-4:15-7:10-10:15 Sun 1:05-4-6:55-10 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:05-6:55-9:45
The Metropolitan Opera: The Merry Widow (STC) Sat 9:55
National Theatre Live: Treasure Island (STC) Thu 7
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Fri 2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20 Sat 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:20 Sun 12-2:30-5-7:35-10:05 Mon-Tue 2:20-4:55-7:20-9:40 Wed 9:40 Thu 2:20-4:55-7:20-9:40
Paddington (G) Fri 2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40 Sat 11-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40 Sun 11:45-2:10-4:35-7-9:25 Mon-Thu 2:10-4:30-6:50-9:10
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Sat 11
Taken 3 (14A) Fri 2:35-5:10-7:45-10:25 Sat 12:05-2:35-5:10-7:45-10:25 Sun 11:50-2:20-4:55-7:30-10:10 Mon-Thu 2:25-5-7:25-9:55
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri 2:40-5:05-7:40-10:10 Sat 12:10-2:40-5:05-7:40-10:10 Sun 11:55-2:25-4:50-7:25-9:55 Mon-Tue 2:35-5:05-7:30-10:05 Wed 2:20-4:50-7:15-10:05 Thu 2:35-5:05-7:30-10:05
The Woman in Black 2: Angel of Death (14A) Fri-Sat 10:40 Sun 10:25 Mon-Wed 9:50

SilverCity Coquitlam 170 Schoolhouse Street

American Sniper (14A) Fri-Sun 12:30-3:35-6:45-9:55 Mon 4:05-7:10-10:15 Tue 12:30-3:35-6:45-9:55 Wed-Thu 4:05-7:10-10:15 Fri-Sun 1:20-4:25-7:35-10:40 Mon 1:15-4:20-7:25-10:30 Tue 1:20-4:25-7:35-10:40 Wed-Thu 1:15-4:20-7:25-10:30
Annie (G) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:30 Mon 12:45-3:35 Tue 12:40-3:30 Wed-Thu 12:45-3:35
Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 1:05 Sat 1:20 Sun-Thu 1:05
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri 3:55-6:45 Sat 4-6:45 Sun 3:55-6:45 Mon 3:55 Tue-Wed 3:55-6:45 Thu 3:55
Blackhat (14A) No Passes Fri-Tue 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 No Passes Wed 4:10-7:20-10:30 No Passes Thu 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 Star & Strollers Screening, No Passes Wed 1
The Boy Next Door (14A) No Passes Thu 10
City Lights (STC) Mon 7
Exhibition OnScreen: Girl With a Pearl Earring (STC) Sun 12:55
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Fri-Wed 6:30-9:45 Thu 10

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Join us for Dine Out Vancouver from January 16th – February 1st and enjoy our delicious three-course menu for only $38. Reservations are available. Please call for details.
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Alberni
Dunsmuir
Granville Island
Yaletown
Morgan Creek
Langley
Richmond South
Maple Ridge
Burnaby
Coquitlam
Scott Road
THE KEG STEAKHOUSE + BAR
kegsteakhouse.com

SilverCity Coquitlam
170 Schoolhouse Street

The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-4:05-7:30-10:50 Mon 12:40-3:55-7:10-10:25 Tue 12:45-4:05-7:30-10:50 Wed-Thu 12:40-3:55-7:10-10:25 Fri-Sun 1:55-5:20-8:45 Mon 5:20-8:45 Tue 1:55-5:20-8:45 Wed-Thu 5:20-8:45
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sun 9:30 Mon 9:15 Tue-Wed 9:30
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri 1:10-4-7:10-10 Sat 1:25-4:15-7:10-10 Sun-Thu 1:10-4-7:10-10 Fri-Sun 12-1:30-3-4:45-6:15-7:50-9:10-10:45 Mon 4:45-6:15-7:40-9:10-10:30 Tue 12-1:30-3-4:45-6:15-7:50-9:10-10:45 Wed-Thu 4:45-6:15-7:40-9:10-10:30
Inherent Vice (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-3:35-6:55-10:15 Mon 1:50-5:10-8:30 Tue 12:15-3:35-6:55-10:15 Wed-Thu 1:50-5:10-8:30
Into the Woods (PG) Fri-Thu 12:50-3:50-7-9:55
The Metropolitan Opera: The Merry Widow (STC) Sat 9:55
Mortdecai (STC) Thu 9:25
National Theatre Live: Treasure Island (STC) Thu 7
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:25 Mon 1:45-4:25-6:55-9:25 Tue 12:20-2:50-5:20-7:50-10:25 Wed 1:45-4:25-6:55-9:25 Thu 1:45-4:25-6:55
Ode to My Father (PG) Fri-Thu 1:40-4:40-7:40-10:35
Paddington (G) Fri 12-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40 Sat 11-12-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40 Sun 12-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40 Mon 1:35-4:05-7:15-9:40 Tue 12-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40 Wed 4:05-7:15-9:40 Thu 1:35-4:05-7:15-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Sat 11
Selma (PG) Fri-Wed 12:35-3:45-7:05-10:10 Thu 12:35-3:45-7:05-10:35
Strange Magic (STC) Thu 7-9:30
Taken 3 (14A) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:45-5:25-8:05-10:45 Mon 2-4:45-7:35-10:15 Tue 12:05-2:45-5:25-8:05-10:45 Wed-Thu 2-4:45-7:35-10:15 Fri-Sun 1:05-4:15-7:20-10:20 Mon 3:45-6:50-9:40 Tue 1:05-4:15-7:20-10:20 Wed-Thu 3:45-6:50-9:40
Unbroken (PG) Fri-Sat 12:30-3:40-6:50-10:05 Sun 3:40-6:50-10:05 Mon-Wed 12:30-3:40-6:50-10:05 Thu 12:30-3:40-6:50
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri-Sat 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:45-10:20 Sun 12:30-3-5:30-8-10:30 Mon 2:15-5-7:45-10:20 Tue 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:45-10:20 Wed-Thu 2:15-5-7:45-10:20

Hollywood 3 Cinema
7125-138th Street, Surrey

Annie (G) Fri 4:40-7:05 Sat-Sun 2:15-4:40-7:05 Mon-Thu 4:40-7:05
The Book of Life (G) Sat-Sun 12:15
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Thu 4:20-6:50-9:20
Interstellar (PG) Sat-Sun 1
The Interview (14A) Fri-Thu 9:30
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri 4:30 Sat-Sun 12:30-4:30 Mon-Thu 4:30
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri 6:30 Sat-Sun 2:30-6:30 Mon-Thu 6:30
Unbroken (PG) Fri-Wed 8:25

Strawberry Hill Grande
12161-72nd Ave, Surrey

American Sniper (14A) Fri-Sun 1:10-4:35-7:35-10:35 Mon-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:15-10:20
Blackhat (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4:10-7:20-10:25 No Passes Mon-Thu 1:05-4-7:10-10:15
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Fri-Sun 4:05 Mon-Thu 4:10
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri-Sun 12:45-7:15-10:30 Mon-Thu 1-7:20-10:30
I (14A) Fri-Thu 1:20-5:15-9
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:25-7:05-10:15 Mon-Thu 1:15-4:25-7:05-10:05
Into the Woods (PG) Fri-Thu 1:30-4:30-7:25-10:10
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Fri-Sun 12:25-2:50-5:25-7:50-10:20 Mon-Thu 1:25-4:15-7-9:50
Paddington (G) Fri 12-2:25-4:45-7:10-9:40 Sat 11-12-2:25-4:45-7:10-9:40 Sun 12-2:25-4:45-7:10-9:40 Mon-Tue 1:35-4:45-7:15-9:40 Wed 4:45-7:15-9:40 Thu 1:35-4:45-7:15-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Sat 11
PK (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:40-7-10:20 Mon-Thu 1:10-6:20-9:45
Taken 3 (14A) Fri-Sun 12:05-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Mon-Thu 2:40-5:15-7:50-10:25
Tevar (PG) Fri-Sun 12:10-3:30-6:45-10 Mon-Thu 2:35-6:30-9:55
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri-Sun 12:15-2:45-5:10-7:40-10:05 Mon-Tue 2:30-5:10-7:35-10 Wed 5:10-7:35-10 Thu 2:30-5:10-7:35-10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 1

Studio 12 Guildford
15051-101st Ave, Surrey

American Sniper (14A) Fri 12:45-3:55-7-10:05 Sat 10:10-12:45-3:55-7-10:05 Sun-Thu 12:45-3:55-7-10:05
Annie (G) Fri-Thu 1
Blackhat (14A) Fri-Thu 12:40-3:40-6:45-10 Sat 10:15
The Boy Next Door (14A) Thu 8
Feng Shui (14A) Fri 1:25-4:05-7:05-9:50 Sat 10:05-1:25-4:05-7:05-9:50 Sun 1:25-7:05-9:50 Mon 1:25-4:05-7:05-9:50 Tue 1:25-4:05 Wed-Thu 1:25-4:05-7:05-9:50 Sun 4:05 Tue 7:05-9:50
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Fri-Thu 4:10
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri-Wed 6:30-9:55
I (14A) Fri-Thu 12:30-4-8
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri 12:50-3:50-6:40-9:30 Sat 10-3:50-6:40-9:30 Sun 3:50-6:40-9:30 Mon-Thu 12:50-3:50-6:40-9:30
In Search of Beethoven (STC) Sun 1
Into the Woods (PG) Fri-Thu 1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15
Mortdecai (STC) Thu 7:10-10:10
Paddington (G) Fri 1:10-4:20-7:10-10:10 Sat 10:05-1:10-4:20-7:10-10:10 Sun 1:10-7:10-10:10 Mon 1:10-4:20-10:10 Tue 1:10-7:10-10:10 Wed-Thu 1:10-4:20-7:10-10:10 Sun 4:20 Mon 7:10 Tue 4:20
PK (PG) Fri-Thu 12:55-3:35-6:50-9:40
Selma (PG) Fri 12:35-3:30 Sat-Wed 12:35-3:30-6:35-9:35 Thu 12:35-3:30 Fri 6:35-9:35
Shakespeare's Globe on Screen: Twelfth Night (STC) Sat 10
Taken 3 (14A) Fri 1:20-4:30-7:30-10:20 Sat 10:20-1:20-4:30-7:30-10:20 Sun-Thu 1:20-4:30-7:30-10:20
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri 1:05-3:45-7:20-9:45 Sat 10:25-1:05-3:45-7:20-9:45 Sun-Thu 1:05-3:45-7:20-9:45

Rialto

1732-152nd Street, White Rock

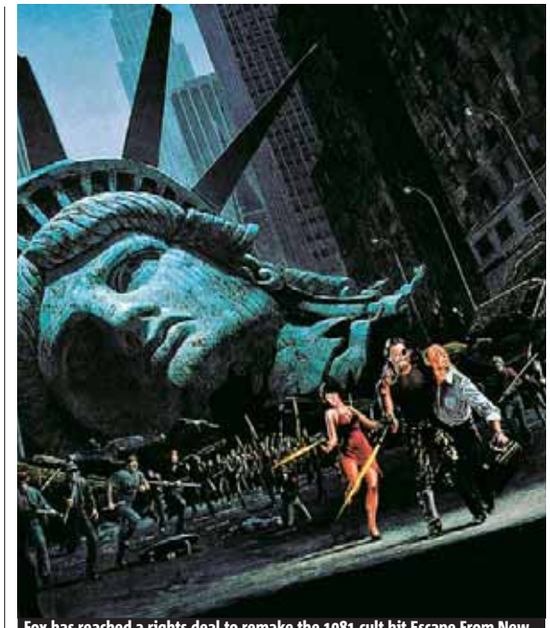
Foxcatcher (PG) Fri-Sun 4-9 Mon-Thu 4
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri 4:30-7:15-9:25 Sat-Sun 2:10-4:30-7:15-9:25 Mon-Thu 4:30-7:15
Wild (14A) Fri 6:45 Sat-Sun 1:40-6:45 Mon-Thu 6:45

Criterion 4 White Rock
2381 King George Highway

American Sniper (14A) Fri 4-6:40-9:20 Sat-Sun 1:15-4-6:40-9:20 Mon-Thu 4-6:40-9:20
Paddington (G) Fri 5-7:10-9:25 Sat-Sun 1-3:05-5-7:10-9:25 Mon-Thu 5-7:10-9:25
Taken 3 (14A) Fri 4:20-6:50-9:05 Sat-Sun 1:10-4:20-6:50-9:05 Mon-Thu 4:20-6:50-9:05
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri 4:10-7-9:15 Sat-Sun 1:30-4:10-7-9:15 Mon-Thu 4:10-7-9:15

Colossus Langley
20090-91A Ave, Langley

American Sniper (14A) Fri-Sat 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40 Sun 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:30 Mon 4:20-7:20-10:25 Tue 1:10-4:20-7:30-10:40 Wed-Thu 4:20-7:20-10:25
American Sniper: The IMAX Experience (14A) Fri-Sun 12:40-3:40-7-10:15 Mon 4-7-10 Tue 12:40-3:40-7-10:15 Wed-Thu 4-7-10
Annie (G) Fri-Sun 1:05-3:55-7:05-9:50 Mon 4:15-7:05-9:50 Tue 1:05-3:55-7:05-9:50 Wed-Thu 4:15-7:05-9:50
Big Hero 6 (G) Fri 1:55 Sat 11:05-2:05 Sun 1:55 Tue 1:55
Big Hero 6 3D (G) Fri-Sun 4:35-7:10 Mon 4:20-7 Tue 4:35-7:10 Wed 4:20-7 Thu 4:20
Blackhat (14A) No Passes Fri-Sun 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 No Passes Mon 4:10-7:20-10:30 No Passes Tue 1-4:10-7:20-10:30 No Passes Wed-Thu 4:10-7:20-10:30
The Boy Next Door (14A) No Passes Thu 10
City Lights (STC) Mon 7
Exhibition OnScreen: Girl With a Pearl Earring (STC) Sun 12:55
Exodus: Gods and Kings 3D (STC) Fri-Wed 9:55
The Gambler (14A) Fri 2-4:45-7:35-10:35 Sat 2:05-4:45-7:35-10:35 Sun 4:45-7:35-10:20 Mon 4:50-7:35-10:15 Tue 2-4:45-7:35-10:35 Wed 4:50-10:15 Thu 4:50-7:35-10:15
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies (PG) Fri-Wed 6:30-9:45
The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies 3D (PG) Fri-Sat 12:50-4-7:15-10:25 Sun 12:50-4-7:15-10:20 Mon 5:05-9:15 Tue 12:50-4-7:15-10:25 Wed-Thu 5:05-9:15
Horrible Bosses 2 (14A) Fri-Sun 1:40-4:05 Mon 4:05 Tue 1:40-4:05 Wed-Thu 4:05
The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1 (PG) Fri-Sat 1:35-4:30-7:35-10:30 Sun 1:35-4:30-7:35-10:25 Mon 4:10-7:15-9:50 Tue 1:35-4:30-7:35-10:30 Wed-Thu 4:10-6:55-9:50
The Imitation Game (PG) Fri-Sun 1:25-4:15-7:15-10:10 Mon 4:30-7:15-10:05 Tue 1:25-4:15-7:15-10:10 Wed-Thu 4:30-7:15-10:05
Inherent Vice (14A) Fri-Sat 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:25 Sun 12:30-3:50-7:05-10:15 Mon 4-7:10-10:20 Tue 12:30-3:50-7:10-10:25 Wed-Thu 4-7:10-10:20
Interstellar (PG) Fri-Sun 9:40 Mon 9:35 Tue 9:40 Wed 9:35
Into the Woods (PG) Fri-Sun 1:30-4:25-7:25-10:20 Mon 4:25-7:25-10:25 Tue 1:30-4:25-7:25-10:20 Wed-Thu 4:25-7:25-10:25
The Metropolitan Opera: The Merry Widow (STC) Sat 9:55
Mortdecai (STC) Thu 10:10
National Theatre Live: Treasure Island (STC) Thu 7
Night at the Museum: Secret of the Tomb (PG) Fri 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:15 Sat 11:05-12:15-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:15 Sun 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:15 Mon 4:55-10:05 Tue 12:15-2:45-5:15-7:50-10:15 Wed 4:45-7:35-10:05 Thu 4:55-7:35
Paddington (G) Fri 12-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40 Sat 11:05-12-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40 Sun 12-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40 Mon 4:40-7:10-9:40 Tue 12-2:25-4:50-7:15-9:40 Wed 7:10-9:40 Thu 4:40-7:10-9:40 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
Paul Blart: Mall Cop (PG) Sat 11
Penguins of Madagascar (G) Fri-Sun 12:25 Tue 12:25
Penguins of Madagascar 3D (G) Fri-Sun 2:55-5:25-7:45 Mon 5:15-7:40 Tue 2:55-5:25-7:45 Wed-Thu 5:15-7:40
Selma (PG) Fri-Sun 1:15-4:05-7:20-10:20 Mon 4:20-7:15-10:20 Tue 1:15-4:05-7:20-10:20 Wed-Thu 4:20-7:15-10:20
Strange Magic (STC) Thu 7-9:30
Taken 3 (14A) Fri-Sat 12:05-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Sun 12:05-2:40-5:15-7:50-10:30 Mon 4:45-7:30-10:15 Tue 12:05-2:40-5:20-8-10:40 Wed-Thu 4:45-7:30-10:15
Unbroken (PG) Fri-Sun 12:20-3:30-6:50-10 Mon 4:05-7:05-10:10 Tue 12:20-3:30-6:50-10 Wed 7:05-10:10 Thu 4:05-7:05-10:10 Star & Strollers Screening Wed 3
The Wedding Ringer (14A) Fri 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Sat 11:10-11:45-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Sun 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Mon 5:10-7:40-10:10 Tue 12:10-2:40-5:10-7:40-10:10 Wed-Thu 5:10-7:40-10:10



Fox has reached a rights deal to remake the 1981 cult hit Escape From New York. CONTRIBUTED

Escape From New York getting a reboot from Fox

Pending film. No script or cast yet for Kurt Russell classic's modern makeover

Fox has secured the rights to remake Escape From New York, John Carpenter's 1981 cult action movie, Deadline reveals.

In September, a wave of rumours suggested that a reboot of Escape from New York was in the works. Some sources even went as far as to speculate (prematurely) on who might follow in Kurt Russell's footsteps in the role of Snake Plissken. Charlie Hunnam, Dan Stevens, Jon Bernthal and Chris Hemsworth were among the names said to be on the shortlist.

Deadline has learned that the remake is indeed underway and that a rights deal has just been reached with Fox.

However, the website specifies that the project does not yet have a script, so the producers have yet to consider any casting choices.

AFP

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Gossip

NED EHRBAR

METRO'S TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Julianne Moore ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Which Oscar nominee runs the risk of a Norbit?

Hooray, the Oscar nominations are a thing and we can move on with Awards Season! But don't forget, we're also in the glut of winter releases, when studios notoriously dump their shaggiest of dogs, and sometimes that can lead to some awkward cross-promotions for nominated actors.

The most famous case, the horribly received Norbit, came out in early February and is believed to have cost Eddie Murphy an Oscar for Dreamgirls in 2007. So who's running that risk this year? Why, only the odds-on-favourites in the two biggest races. First up, Julianne Moore pretty much has the race tied up for her stellar work in Still Alice, but ads have already started hitting TV for Seventh Son, the not-great-looking fantasy action film featuring Moore as some sort evil witch. Or at least inspiration for future drag queens. It also co-stars previous Oscar winner Jeff Bridges, who just looks embarrassed to be there. And then there's Best Actor nominee Eddie Redmayne, who also plays a campy villain in an early February release, this time in the Wachowskis' Jupiter Ascending. The jury is still out on the sci-fi epic, which will likely either be spectacular or a mess. But Redmayne should come out pretty unscathed, since most of the Jupiter attention seems to be going to Channing Tatum — the only main Foxcatcher actor to not get nominated.

One thing is for sure. Reps for Whiplash star (and Best Supporting Actor favourite) J.K. Simmons are likely doing everything they can to get his goofy Farmers Insurance ads off TV screens before Oscar voting gets too ramped up.

Gwynnie's got more breakup stories for you

Gwyneth Paltrow's making quite a name for herself as an over-sharer. Or maybe all her Goop posting about uncoupling from Chris Martin gave a taste for divulging that she found she liked.

The View from the Top star decided to continue her campaign of candour during a visit to Howard Stern's satellite radio show. For instance, care to learn more about the demise of her engagement to Brad Pitt? "I was such a kid. I was 22 when we met. It's taken me until 40 to get my head out of my ass," she says. "You can't make that decision (to get married) when you're 22 years old ... I wasn't ready, and he was too good for me ... I didn't know what I was doing."

But totally not too good for her? Ex-boyfriend Ben Affleck. "He was not in a good place in his life to have a girlfriend," Paltrow says of their relationship, though she does at least deign to approve of Affleck's eventual choice of a wife, Jennifer Garner. "Not only is she beautiful, (but) she is so warm and she cooks and is so into her kids. And she's hilarious," she says. "I had a girls' dinner before the summer and she came over. She's my neighbour. I really like her a lot." So now you know.

Gwyneth Paltrow

Naya's been showered with criticism since TV remark

Glee star Naya Rivera is sorry. She's very, very sorry. During a stop at The View earlier this week, Rivera tossed off a few jokes about showering — namely that, "White people shower a lot more than ethnics. I feel like showering more than once a day or every day is such a white people thing." Apparently that didn't go over too well, as Rivera returned to the show to beg forgiveness. "It was supposed to be a joke. I apologize if anyone was offended," she said, directly addressing the viewers at home. "We were talking about a study that says we are supposed to shower, I guess, once or twice every three days, which I had an opinion on — which was supposed to be a joke, but apparently didn't go over so well."

Naya Rivera

A still from The LEGO Movie

Fans cry foul over Oscar's LEGO Movie snub

Speaking of the Academy Award nominations, many have pointed out the glaring oversight that is The LEGO Movie being left out of the best animated film category. Clearly the Academy was aware of it, since its hit earworm Everything is Awesome is up for Best Song, so what gives? While fans and critics were busy crying foul, though, the film's co-director, Phil Lord, was taking the high road — and keeping busy with the famous building toys.

Kirstie's all ready for a Bieber booty call

So, Kirstie Alley wants to make out with Justin Bieber. And I say we let her. Who are we to stand in the way of true happiness? Alley revealed her potentially scandalous desire on The Rachael Ray Show during a round of the clumsily renamed game Marry, Make Out or Move On. First of all, come on, Ms. Ray. The game is called F—, Marry, Kill. It loses all of its potency and fun when you oversanitize it like that. Even the cleaner version the kids on YouTube play would be acceptable: Kiss, Marry, Kill. But yours? No.

Now then, back to Alley. During the game, she's presented with the choice of Bieber, Harry Styles or Nick Jonas. "We've all seen Justin Bieber's Calvin Klein (ads). He's so handsome. What a handsome man. I'm just all over Justin Bieber," Alley says. "I want to make out with him." She then says she'd marry Styles to "go on tour with him because I want to seem younger."

Kirstie Alley

Rape case

Roman Polanski

Polanski victim says she's forgiven him

Samantha Geimer, the woman Roman Polanski drugged and raped in 1977 when she was 13 years old, says she and the infamous director are totally cool now and all is forgiven. I'm guessing law enforcement officials won't be so nice, though. "I have absolutely forgiven (Polanski). I feel like he owned up to what he did," Geimer tells the National Enquirer after Polanski's request for a new hearing was denied.

"He pleaded guilty and served his sentence and, although he fled, he was fleeing a corrupt and unethical judge." She also reveals that she's in regular email contact with the exiled filmmaker. Those have got to be some interesting messages. METRO

Gitch glitch

Justin Bieber

Last time with the Bieber underwear debate — we swear

Since the controversy over how much Justin Bieber's Calvin Klein photos were Photoshopped is still raging, here's one last piece of evidence for you to pore over: A behind-the-scenes Associated Press video from Bieber's shoot has plenty of footage of him in action so you can pause it and compare and contrast with the finished ads. Plus, model Lara Stone shows off some really amazing acting chops in discussing what it was like to work with the Biebs. METRO

Ricardo is a Canadian chef, television host and author on a mission: To unite people through the pleasure of food. Discover his delicious and simple recipes every Friday — just in time for the weekend

Wine gives beef tender loving touch

This recipe serves six. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

Dinner. Red Wine Braised Beef is a great meal when you have a bit more time to spare

RICARDO COOKS
Chef Ricardo
Ricardo Magazine

When your cheeks are rosy from a day of being outside, nothing hits the spot like a comfort food classic. Plan ahead and let a blade roast slow-cook while you warm up in front of the fireplace.

1. With the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven to 350 F (180 C).

2. In a large ovenproof skillet, brown the meat in half the oil. Season with salt and pepper on both sides. Set the meat on a plate. In the same skillet, soften the shallots with the spices in the remaining oil (2 tbsp/ 30 ml). Sprinkle with the flour and mix well. Deglaze with the wine. Bring to a boil, whisking constantly.

3. Return the meat to the skillet. Add half the beef broth and the ketchup. Bring to a boil. Cover and roast in the oven for 3 hours. Turn the meat over three or four times during cooking and baste with the remaining beef broth.

4. Add the carrots and pancetta around the roast. Continue cooking, always covered, for about 1 hour or until the meat is fork tender and the vegetables are cooked.

5. To give a nice crust to braised meat, move the rack to the highest position of the oven. Set the oven to broil. Drain the meat and place on a baking sheet. Keep the sauce and toppings warm. Brush top of the roast with honey. Broil for about 3 minutes or until the surface starts to brown.

6. Serve meat with toppings and drizzle with sauce. Serve with barley. **FOLLOW RICARDO ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ON RICARDOCUISINE.COM OR SUBSCRIBE TO HIS MAGAZINE'S ENGLISH EDITION, WHICH LAUNCHED IN 2014.**

Ingredients

- 1 boneless beef blade roast, about 3 lb (1.5 kg) and about 3 inches (7.5 cm) thick
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) olive oil
- Salt and pepper
- 3 shallots, chopped
- 2 tsp crushed juniper berries
- 1/2 tsp cracked black pepper
- 1/4 tsp ground nutmeg
- 2 tbsp all-purpose flour
- 2 cups (500 ml) red wine
- 2 cups (500 ml) beef broth, warm
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) ketchup
- 4 large carrots, diced
- 1/4 lb (115 g) pancetta, diced
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) honey

Liquid Assets

Enjoy a glass as you cook

LIQUID ASSETS
Peter Rockwell
@therealwineguy
liquidassets@eastlink.ca

I've written it before, and I'll write it again: I'd never cook with a wine I wouldn't drink.

Not that I'd plunk down a week's pay on some vino to simply pour into a pan. Wine is a secondary flavour component in any main course and not the focal point.

As a basic rule you should always pick a wine that matches your budget and key ingredient.

Today's recipe from Chef Ricardo is a great example of how well liquids and solids can work together in a dish. His braised beef is a hearty entrée that deserves a red wine that's in line with the mouth-filling texture of the meat.

Think a red Bordeaux from France, a spicy Australian Shiraz, a peppery Argentinean Malbec or a rich, full-bodied Chilean Cabernet like the 2013 Errazuriz Estate Reserva Cabernet Sauvignon ($12.99 - $14.99.)

One last tip: Never keep a half-drunk bottle of red in your pantry to "cook with." Once it's opened it will only stay consumable for a few days. **PRICES REFLECT THE RANGE ACROSS THE COUNTRY. SOME PRODUCTS MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE IN ALL PROVINCES.**

Fresh take on onion soup

Need something quick but deliciously filling to warm you up? Try French Onion Soup — with a twist. The addition of tomatoes offers a new way to enjoy this classic.

1. In a large saucepan, gently sauté the onions in the butter until they caramelize, about 15 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Deglaze with the wine. Add the broth and tomatoes. Bring to a boil and simmer for about 10 minutes. Season with salt and pepper.

2. With the rack in the middle position, preheat the oven's broiler.

3. Ladle the soup in ovensafe bowls or baking dishes. Top with the bread slices and sprinkle with the cheese. Brown under the broiler.

RICARDO

Ingredients

- 8 cups (2 litres) thinly sliced sweet onions (Vidalia, red)
- 3 tbsp (42 g) butter
- Salt and pepper
- 1/2 cup (125 ml) port wine
- 4 cups (1 litre) beef or chicken broth
- 1 can 14 oz (398 ml) cherry or diced tomatoes
- 6 slices baguette cut diagonally, lightly toasted
- 1 1/2 cups (150 g) grated Gruyère cheese

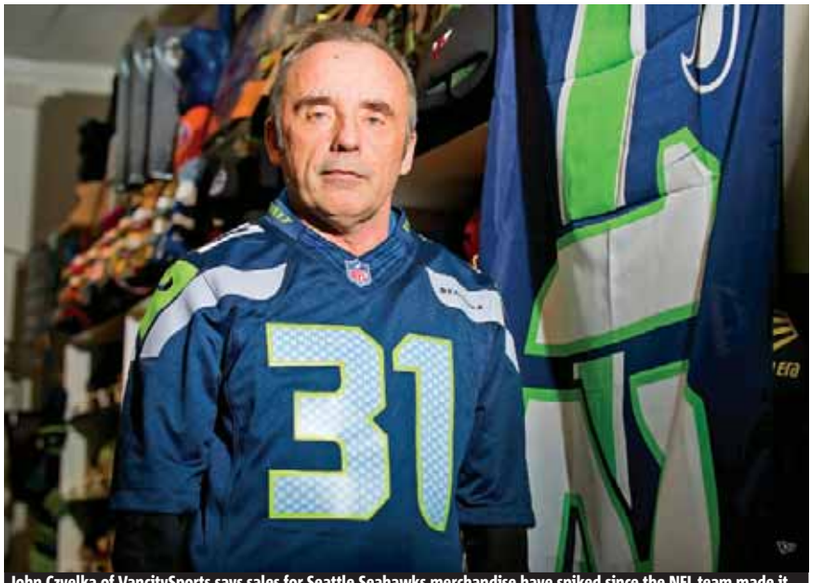
This recipe makes six servings. COURTESY RICARDOCUISINE.COM

SPORTS 4

Seahawks fever grips Vancouver

NFL playoffs. The defending Super Bowl champs battle Green Bay in the NFC championship game

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca



John Czvelka of VancitySports says sales for Seattle Seahawks merchandise have spiked since the NFL team made it to the NFC championship game. JENNIFER GAUTHIER/FOR METRO

One live experience at what was then Qwest Field, and Peter Glavas was hooked on the Seattle Seahawks.

"I was always a football fan but a fair-weather football," said Glavas in an interview from inside Blackbird Public House and Oyster Bar in downtown Vancouver.

"Once going down there and getting that taste ... it's (16 weeks) a year and people go absolutely nuts for their team. So I loved it. I fell in love with that, more than I did with the football because the football became secondary."

In addition to the atmosphere at CenturyLink Field, the Seahawks' on-field success in recent years has been icing on the cake for Glavas.

"It's more of a bonus than everything else," he said.

Glavas, now a season-ticket holder for the Seahawks, will travel to Seattle this weekend. It's kind of a big game.

The Seahawks face Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay Packers in the NFC championship game, with the winner advancing to the Super Bowl.

The Seahawks are the defending champs. After a slow start to this season, they've rounded back into championship form, especially with that vaunted defence and that feared Legion of Boom.

Fans in Vancouver have Seahawks fever.

January and February are typically quiet in the retail industry, says John Czvelka of VanCitySports, which sells sports apparel.

However, the selling of Seattle Seahawks merchandise is the exception.

Jerseys, hats, shirts and toques with the Seahawks logo and brand are flying off the shelves as the defending Super Bowl champions climb closer to returning to the big game.

"It has spiked greatly," said Czvelka on Thursday. "Our sales have quadrupled from December and that was high, already."

Czvelka said he expects to see another spike on the sales of Seahawks gear if they make it back to the Super Bowl.

"We will see a lot more of a rush, as well," he said.

"People will be hosting Super Bowl parties, so they'll need a flag, a banner, mini helmets, stickers, so definitely we'll have more products for that area."

As for a prediction, Glavas has the Seahawks winning 24-14.

NFC championship game

Packers (13-4) at Seahawks (13-4). Sunday, 12:05 p.m.

- The Seahawks beat the Packers 36-16 in Week 1.

NHL

Canucks end losing streak at three games

By keeping things simple, Ryan Miler has had success while playing sick.

Miller returned from a two-game illness absence and made 29 saves, and Henrik Sedin had a goal and an assist to lead the Vancouver Canucks to a 4-0 victory over the Philadelphia Flyers on Thursday night.

"If you're thinking too much out there, you're overcommitting, you're overplaying," Miller said. "When you're not feeling great, you settle it down.

"I think my dad has seen me play really good hockey when I'm sick ever since I was a kid."

Nick Bonino, Radim Vrbata and Jannik Hansen also scored for Vancouver, which snapped a three-game losing streak and broke out of a scoring slump. The Canucks tallied just two goals during their skid.

"We needed to get back in the win column," Hansen said. "If you lose one or two in a row, that's not good. Three, that's starting trouble. We needed to get back on the winning track to keep up with the other teams."

It was Miller's fourth shutout this season and 33rd of his NHL career. He improved to 5-2-1 with a 1.63 goals-against average in his last eight games.

Philadelphia dropped its second straight and fell further out of playoff contention. The Flyers entered Thursday 11 points out of a wild-card spot in the Eastern Conference.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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First-rounder Parker had 'chip on shoulder'

MLS. Whitecaps' draftee says his hard work at draft combine drew attention

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

Carl Robinson, never one to shy away from praising his younger players, gave first-round draft Tim Parker quite the compliment, saying the central defender was the best player at the draft combine.

The Vancouver Whitecaps, as they continue to try and bolster their roster at the centre back position, selected the 21-year-old Parker with the 13th overall pick in Thursday's MLS SuperDraft.

Parker spent four years at St. John's University and is six-foot-two and 195 pounds.

"First of all, I'd say the coach is being very kind in saying that," said Parker in a conference call.

Whitecaps draft pick Tim Parker on Thursday in Philadelphia. MATT ROURKE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"For me, I went down there with kind of a chip on my shoulder and a statement to make to the coaches and the league itself that I wanted to be a first-round pick."

The position of centre back has been a focal point for the Whitecaps in recent days.

They acquired Diego Rodriguez on a one-year loan, decided to part ways with veteran Andy O'Brien after the two sides couldn't reach an agreement on a new contract and there is uncertainty surrounding Johnny Leveron's future in Vancouver after the club previously declined his option and is now in talks with his agent about a new deal.

As of Wednesday, the two sides aren't close.

"I thought he did the fundamentals very well. You talk about reading the game, you talk about positional sense, you're talking about aerial battles, playing simple when you need to," said Robinson, the Whitecaps head coach, of Parker.

The Whitecaps took forward Kay Banjo in the second round.

SuperDraft

Canadian Larin goes No. 1

Teenager Cyle Larin made history at the MLS SuperDraft on Thursday when he became the first Canadian to go first overall.

Cyle Larin THE CANADIAN PRESS

The 19-year-old forward from Brampton, Ont., was the consensus No. 1 pick, with expansion Orlando City SC resisting all trade offers for the UConn sophomore.

"The reason that goal-scorers go for the most money is because they're the most valuable," said Orlando head coach Adrian Heath, a former Stoke City and Everton star. "If you look at what he's got, we think there's a lot of promise there."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Rockets blast Thunder

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook knocks down the Rockets' Donatas Motiejunas during the first half of Thursday's game in Houston. James Harden scored 15 of his 31 points in the Rockets' big first quarter in a 112-101 win. PAT SULLIVAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NHL

Flames sting Coyotes in Arizona

David Jones, Mark Giordano and Sean Monahan scored third-period goals, and Joni Ortio made 28 saves in his second win in two starts this season to lead the Calgary Flames past the Arizona Coyotes 3-1 on Thursday night.

Jones broke a 1-1 tie, and Monahan scored into an empty net with 1:25 left. Calgary has won all four meetings against Arizona this season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Bucks hunt down Knicks in London

O.J. Mayo scored 22 points, Brandon Knight had 20 points and six steals, and the Milwaukee Bucks routed New York 95-79 on Thursday night in London, extending the Knicks' franchise-record losing streak to 16.

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AUGMENTED REALITY

Stuck on 12 Across? Scan this image with your Metro News app for today's crossword and Sudoku answers. It's OK. No one's watching.

metro AR

→ See the full instructions on Metro's Voices page.

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Good fortune is heading your way. You may find that hard to believe but if you adopt a more positive outlook today and over the weekend it will help you to recognize how lucky you are.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
No matter what sad tales you hear from people today you will be on a high. As far as you are concerned the world is, was and always will be wonderful.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If you force yourself to be enthusiastic about a task you don't care for today you may be surprised to find that you actually quite enjoy it.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
A few days from now you will look back and wonder why and how you allowed yourself to get so worked up about a relationship matter. Life always moves on and so should you.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
If someone tries to belittle your efforts over the next 24 hours it can only be because they are jealous of your ability to get things done and the way (almost) everyone loves you.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
There is something you have wanted to do for many years but for one reason or another never got around to. Now the universe is making it easy for you to get started on it.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You will be less inclined to worry about your cashflow today and that's good. The only danger is you could start spending money like it grows on trees. It doesn't.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Your luck will turn for the better very soon but today you must be cautious, especially when travelling and dealing with people whose motives you know little about.

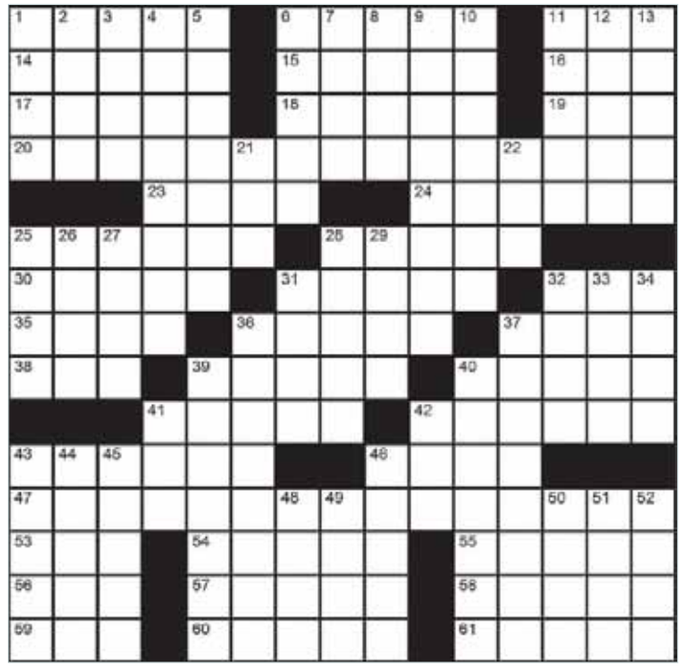
♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
The next few days will be lucky for you and what you gain you will deserve. Not everyone will agree with it but not everyone is aware how hard you worked to get to your current position.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
If you gamble on something and win today you would be wise not to go any further. The planets warn that once you are ahead the only way you will stay ahead is by calling it a day.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Don't feel bad about it if you gain from someone else's loss over the next 24 hours. According to the planets it is your turn to get lucky, so take advantage of the situation.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
If someone tries to do you a favour don't automatically assume that it's some kind of scam. Genuine people do exist.

Crossword: Canada Across and Down by Kelly Ann Buchanan



Across
1. Three-player card game
6. Sports buff's interests
11. US lawyers' org.
14. Heat-resistant glassware
15. Java hue
16. "Follow You Down" by __ Blossoms
17. Spew fire
18. Mr. Flynn
19. Contribute
20. Sniffle, achoo... Cold treatment alternatives: 2 wds.
23. Twisted
24. Immediately!
25. Misgivings
28. Blue Rodeo's "__ Hit Me Yet"
30. Loosen
31. Stevie Wonder's "Shoo-__-__-Be-Doo-Da-Day"
32. iPhone download
35. Medical suffix
36. Convict
37. "Ripley's Believe __ Not!": 2 wds.
38. The Anteater's mealtime noise in the B.C. comic strip
39. Songstress Ms. Scott's
40. Rusty hue
41. __ _ letter (Used Canada Post)
42. Family emblems
43. Becky Black and Maya Miller = Vancouver rock duo The __ _-_.
46. Scottish rolls
47. Canadian artist (b.1905 - d.1989) ...his paintings depict the landscapes of Alberta and Saskatchewan: 2 wds.
53. "Don't Bring Me Down" gr.
54. Herman's Hermits singer Peter
55. "__ Was a Lady" (1945)
56. Has the ability
57. The Jackson 5's "__ __ There"
58. Serviceable
59. Middle
60. Guitarist Duane, and surnamesakes
61. Dished, __ out

Down
1. Unlock
2. "__ Breckinridge" (1970)
3. Men's cologne brand
4. CBC's "__ of Doyle"
5. Drastic
6. Extract metal from ore
7. Pressure unit
8. Land unit
9. 4th Prime Minister of Canada, from 1892 to 1894: Sir John __ (b.1845 - d.1894)
10. Hamilton-based cheese company since 1962
11. Anew
12. Posh bathroom feature
13. Hence...: 2 wds.
21. Years: French
22. Actress, __-Marie Jones
25. Test
26. Do __ others...
27. Fighting: 2 wds.
28. No Doubt's "__ Good"
29. Big fusses
31. Fashion accessory
32. Sporty sorts, shortly
33. Harbour site
34. CEO
36. Have a successful day as a prospector during the Klondike: 2 wds.
37. Emulate Kurt Browning: 2 wds.
39. "I Dream of __"
40. The __ (Historic concert hall in Vancouver)
41. Do moguls
42. Meower
43. Portion
44. Relieve
45. Baa Baa! Duplicate, like Dolly
46. Namesakes of Marcia's "Desperate Housewives" role
48. Hilly countryside area
49. Dionne Warwick's "Walk __ __"
50. Modify
51. Annoy
52. Singer/songwriter Lou

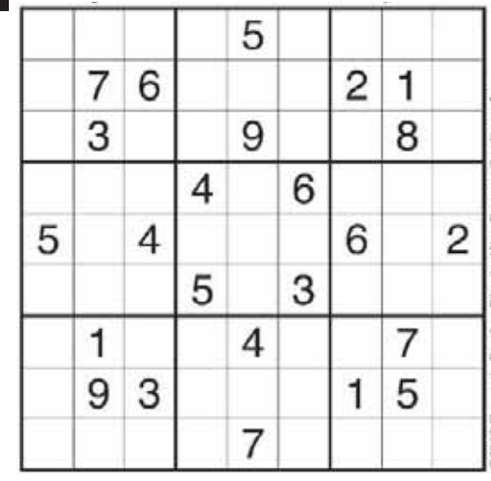
Yesterday's Crossword

Online

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers

Conceptis Sudoku by Dave Green

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



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Yesterday's Sudoku

7	2	8	3	1	4	6	5	9
6	5	3	7	2	9	8	1	4
1	9	4	6	5	8	2	7	3
2	6	9	4	7	3	1	8	5
8	4	1	5	9	2	3	6	7
3	7	5	1	8	6	4	9	2
9	1	2	8	3	5	7	4	6
4	3	7	9	6	1	5	2	8
5	8	6	2	4	7	9	3	1

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INCLUDES flights into Ho Chi Minh City return from Hanoi, 1-night pre-tour accom near Ben Thanh Market with complimentary breakfast and free Wi-Fi, 15-day tour where you will see how locals live on an overnight homestay in Mekong Delta, explore Ben Tre, visit Nha Trang and the declared World Heritage site Hoi An. **BONUS** save 15%Δ tour discounted rate included. Tour for ages 18-39.

Costa Rica Family Special, Flights + 3 Nights + 9-Day Tour from $2479◊
INCLUDES roundtrip flights into San Jose, 2-nights pre-tour and 1-night post tour family-friendly accom with daily breakfast, 9-day family-friendly tour where you can enjoy pristine beaches, Manuel Antonio National Park and kayak and paddle-board in La Fortuna. Price per person based on family of 4. **BOOK** this package based on double occupancy from $2655.

Viva Las Vegas

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Flights + 3 Nights

from **$335**

INCLUDES accom on the Strip.

4-star from $369

4.5-star from $389

5-star from $405

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3-Night Cruise

from **$359**

CRUISE Vancouver to San Francisco and visit Astoria. **BONUS** $25◊ onboard credit included. **UPGRADE** to balcony from $695.

Western Caribbean
7-Night Cruise from $415
CRUISE roundtrip Houston and visit Cozumel, Belize and Roatan. **UPGRADE** to balcony from $739.

Hawaii Vacations

Honolulu

Flights + 7 Nights

from **$949**

INCLUDES accom near Waikiki Beach. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from $1039. **ADD** lei greeting from $19.

Hawaii Family Special, Flights + 2 Nights + 7-Night Cruise from $1625◊
INCLUDES flights, family-friendly Waikiki accom and cruise sailing roundtrip Honolulu visiting Maui, Hilo, Kona and Kauai. Price per person based on family of 4. **BONUS** $50◊ onboard credit included. **BOOK** based on double occupancy from $2499.

Friday Inspiration

Japan Cherry Blossom Viewing Season, Flights + 8 Nights 5-Star + Day Tour

from **$2645**

Imagine spreading a blanket under a blooming cherry tree in Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden for a picnic while marvelling at the pink petals dancing in the air like a soft spring rain and letting your senses become overwhelmed by the perfume of delicate cherry blossoms. Start your journey in Tokyo where modern meets tradition, shop for crafts and souvenirs on the colorful Nakamise Street and stop at Tsukiji fish market, take a day tour and visit Hakone and the majestic snowcapped Mount Fuji, discover the charming scenery of rural Honshu, hop aboard a sky gondola for unbeatable sights of Lake Ashi, Mount Fuji and Owakudani Boiling Valley and visit Osaka where you can see the Osaka Castle and enjoy the Osaka Aquarium Kaiyukan. **INCLUDES** all international and domestic flights, 4 nights 5-star Tokyo central accom close to Shinjuku Gyoen National Garden, Mt Fuji and Hanake tour and 4 nights 5-star Osaka accom.

City Breaks

Anaheim Family Special Flights + 3 Nights

from **$379◊**

INCLUDES accom in a family suite near *Disneyland* Resort. Price per person based on family of 4. **ADD** *Disneyland* Resort 3-Day *Park Hopper* Ticket from $304/adult, $291/child (ages 3-9). **BOOK** this package based on double occupancy from $455.

New York Flights + 3 Nights from $845
INCLUDES Manhattan accom on the Upper East Side. **ADD** sightseeing tour from $75.

Istanbul
Flights + 7 Nights 4-Star from $1129
INCLUDES boutique accom in Taksim Square with magnificent views of Istiklal Street and the city. **ADD** Urban Safari street food picnic from $49.

Hong Kong
Flights + 7 Nights 4-Star from $1729
INCLUDES 4-star accom in the commercial and entertainment districts of Causeway Bay and Wan Chai. **ADD** Hong Kong island tour from $39.

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